Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you intend to get a flu shot this year?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS
PHASE 6
As of August 31, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Two Killed
Two California firefighters are killed when their vehicle rolled down a mountain side.

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New Reporter
NBC's "Today" show has hired former first daughter Jenna Hager as a new correspondent.

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Shell, Mobil raise fuel prices anew by 10 cents. **PAGE 2**
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FOR SEVEN MONTHS' WORK

CNMI billed almost $400,000

Huesman hands 30 pages of documents to Sablan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S.-based law firm representing the CNMI in its fight against federalization billed the CNMI government almost $400,000 between August 2008 and February 2009, but since a federal judge has yet to decide on the lawsuit, the billing continues from March to this day.

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Government lawyer Braddock J. Huesman, left, looks on as Rep. Tina Sablan (I-Saipan), right, checks the documents handed to her by 5pm yesterday in the legislative building on Capital Hill pursuant to a CNMI Supreme Court ruling on Friday. Also in the photo are Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan), second from left, and Rep. Ed Salas (R-Saipan).

JENNER & BLOCK LLP'S INVOICES TO THE CNMI GOVERNMENT
August 2008 to February 2009

Invoice date	Invoice #	Total invoice*
Aug. 26, 2008	910815	$87,173.54
Sept. 17, 2008	9112551	$12,035.01
Oct. 9, 2008	9115379	$35,837.26
Nov. 13, 2008	9118433	$64,094.88
Dec. 11, 2008	9122491	$38,942.11
Jan. 23, 2009	9125346	$56,287.88
Feb. 27, 2009	9128117	$101,601.13
TOTAL		**$395,971.81**

*Each invoice reflects less 8% fee discount

'Saipan power production crisis is over'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Shortly after 1:30pm yesterday, rented generators from the Singapore-based Aggreko were shut off to give way to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s own power generation.

"Today, we can safely pronounce that the Saipan power production crisis is over," Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said in a brief ceremony in the main control room of CUC's power plant in Lower Base yesterday.

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Tony Muña, utilities officials and employees pose for a group photo after Aggreko's generators were shut off to give way to CUC's power generation in a brief ceremony in the control room of power plant 1 in Lower Base.

Election board may reconsider new regs

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

RELATED NEWS
'Proposed ballot design favors political party candidates' **PAGE 3**

The Commonwealth Election Commission board may reconsider the emergency regulations it adopted last week after the commissioners agreed to "resolve" the issue with independent candidates.

See ELECTION on Page 4

Copper wire thieves strike at Susupe park

Wires stolen a day before the lighting of entire park

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Electrical wirings worth about $5,500 from four pavilions at the Susupe Regional Park were stolen on Friday, just days before the final installation of lighting fixtures at the park that would have made the area

See COPPER on Page 4

Local

DPH to conduct annual flu shots before swine flu vaccine

The Department of Public Health will be conducting the seasonal flu vaccine or what is called the annual flu shot before the 2009 H1N1 vaccine.

DPH said that persons prioritized for initial doses of the H1N1 vaccine are not the same group the annual flu shot is intended for.

However, those at high risk for serious flu complications and their close contacts should get their annual flu shot as soon as it will be available in the CNMI.

DPH said they want to make sure the public understands fully who should receive the two vaccines and when each one will be available in the CNMI.

The target groups for each vaccine will be dependent on the number of vaccines it receives from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

DPH said the 2009 H1N1 flu virus is a reminder of the unpredictable nature of the flu, and the importance of prevention.

The public is reminded that while the new virus had been the focus of attention, it is also important to be aware of the risks posed by the seasonal flu viruses.

The annual flu shot contain three flu viruses, which change each year based on international surveillance and scientists' estimation about which types and strains of flu viruses will circulate in a given year.

But DPH stressed that the annual flu shot is not expected to protect against infection with the 2009 H1N1 flu virus.

The swine flu vaccines are expected to be available in the CNMI by mid-October. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Ballet Classes for All Ages (3y.o. – Adult)
Jazz & Hip-Hop Dance Class for Children & Teenagers.
Dance Aerobic & Fitness Class for Adults.
All students of the Academy will take part in the Christmas performance of classic ballet of "Sleeping Beauty" that would be staged together with guest ballet professionals from Russia, Guam, Korea & Japan in December 2009.
For information call: 483-6271 or e-mail: glushkosacademy@yahoo.com

Shell, Mobil raise fuel prices anew

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan motorists are again paying 10 cents more for a gallon of fuel after Shell Marianas and Mobil Oil Marianas raised their pump prices yesterday, the fifth round of increases this year.

This means that motorists have been paying 65 cents more a gallon since the first round of increase in 2009 in February.

Unlike the year's past four rounds of increases, the two oil giants changed their prices on the same day this time, although Shell's price hike took effect at 12:01am and Mobil's went into effect at 2pm Monday.

The price of regular self-serve gasoline, which is the one on display at Mobil and Shell service stations, is now $3.479 a gallon, after the 10-cent hike.

Regular full-serve gasoline now costs $3.609 a gallon at both Mobil and Shell stations.

At Mobil service stations, the price of super self-serve gasoline is now $3.779 a gallon after yesterday's 10-cent increase, while super full-serve gasoline now retails at $3.899 a gallon.

Shell's premium self-serve gasoline now retails at $3.799 a gallon, while its premium full-serve gasoline now costs $3.919 a gallon.

Diesel at Mobil and Shell stations now retail at $3.649 a gallon, from the previous cost of $3.549 a gallon.

The last time Mobil and Shell increased their prices was in mid-June, by 15 cents.

That was barely two weeks after another round of price increases.

Each of the five price changes was not announced beforehand by Mobil and Shell. Motorists knew about them only when they see the price displays reflecting the new rates.

NEW FUEL PRICES

MOBIL	Full service	SHELL	Full service
Self-service	Regular	Self-service	Regular
Regular	$3.60	Regular	$3.60
$3.47	Premium	$3.47	Premium
Premium	$3.89	Premium	$3.91
$3.77		$3.79	Diesel
			$3.64

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Membership Offer!
10% OFF membership fees*
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when you enroll before Sept. 15, 2009
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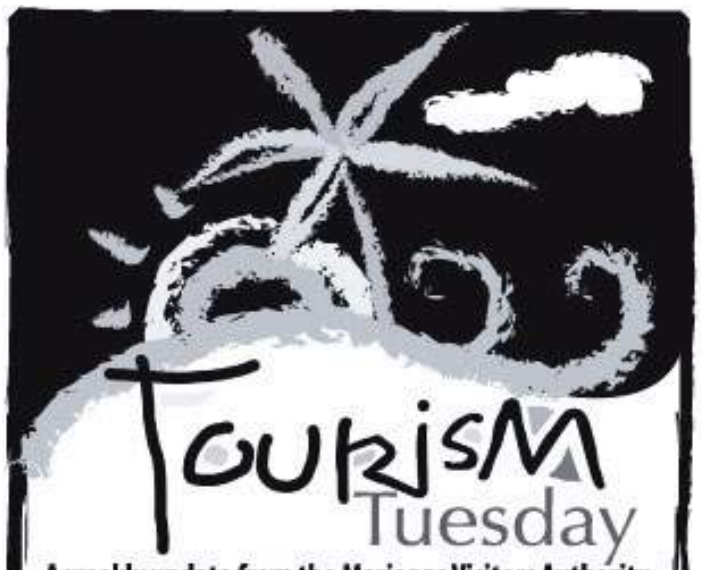
TO ENROLL OR FOR MORE INFORMATION
Call Janna Young at 233-4646 or email at Janna_y@marianashealth.com
Visit us at www.marianashealth.com



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

What are "shoulder months"?

"Shoulder months" in tourism lingo are the low travel demand period from roughly October to mid-December of each year.

During this time of the year, fewer people travel, resulting in less demand and often, fewer flights or air seats.

How do the "shoulder months" look for the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) in 2009?

In a word, challenging, as the islands anticipate a double digit reduction in air seat capacity from our primary markets of Japan and Korea. During this period, the NMI will lose 82% of its weekly seats from Nagoya, 75% of its weekly seats from Osaka. However, after a September drop in available air seats from Korea, that market is anticipated to recover through mid-December, when the holiday season begins and the lost Japan flights are also restored.

Help every visitor feel welcomed. Give them a smile and a warm "hafa adai!"

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Marianas Variety News & Views

'Proposed ballot design favors political party candidates'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Rep. Tina Sablan objected yesterday to the changes adopted by the Commonwealth Election Commission in the design of ballots for this November's election, saying the agency should stick with the 2005 ballot design.

Sablan's opposition to the commission's emergency regulations was the second received by the agency, following the protest filed by the independent gubernatorial tandem of Juan Guerrero and Joseph Camacho.

Sablan is running for a Senate seat as an independent candidate in the Nov. 7 election.

In her three-page letter to CEC executive director Robert Guerrero, board chair Frances Sablan, and Attorney General Edward Buckingham, Sablan said the new regulations and 2009 ballot design approved by the board appear to be in violation of the spirit and intent of existing CNMI law.

She said it is in the best interest of the public to follow the ballot design used in the 2005 general election "because it promotes less confusion and results in greater percentage of valid votes."

Under the new regulation, the ballot's front will display in two columns the Covenant and Republican candidates for all offices, while the back side of the ballot will have the independent and Democrat candidates.

Sablan disclosed that in her initial inquiry with CEC, it was explained that the new ballot form was to make it easier and less confusing for elderly and "less literate" voters to vote along party lines if they wish to, while voters who are "smart enough" to not vote straight "should be smart enough to turn the page."

Sablan said both the regulations and the comments of CEC official suggest an "alarming and wholly inappropriate bias" by the CEC in favor of political parties and against independent candidates.

"These emergency regulations and the CEC executive director's comments suggest that the CEC is anything but indifferent to the outcome of the upcoming election, and raise serious questions about how free and fair this next election will be," Sablan said.

The commission adopted the emergency regulations on Aug. 25.

The independent Guerrero-Camacho tandem had threatened to go to court if the board of election fails to reconsider its decision.

Sablan asked the agency and election officials to immediately withdraw the amendments.

If CEC intends to finalize and approve a ballot design listing candidates for political parties in consecutive order in columns, Sablan said the CEC should afford everyone an opportunity to submit comments on the ballot design and to issue a concise statement for and against the adoption of the design.

Sablan also wants CEC to explain in writing why the new ballot design is "not arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, illegal, or in excess of the CEC's statutory jurisdiction or authority."

She also asked the agency to make available for public inspection the minutes, transcripts, recordings and other public record documenting the CEC meeting on Aug. 25.

'Mislabeled' and 'undeclared' cargoes found at Saipan port

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A 40-foot container with improperly labeled bottled water products and other undeclared items was reportedly uncovered at the Saipan port last week.

Customs Division director Jess Muña told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that upon inspection of his personnel Thursday last week, the bottled water products were turned over to the Department of Public Health, which withheld the release of the products to the consignee.

Muña's office is responsible for inspecting all cargoes and reporting any anomalies to concerned agencies.

Saipan Tribune learned that the water products were deemed improperly labeled after a finding that the products were processed in the Philippines but were labeled as the best water on Saipan.

"Public Health is holding the bottled water products and would make the decision on the cargo," Muña said.

He said the Customs Division will not encourage the Health Department to release it for public consumption due to safety purposes.

"When you see something like that, there is misconception on how the water was processed. Legally, when water like that is imported they have to have the importation label from the water processing company in the Philippines. But in this case, we don't know where the water was bottled from and we will not let our people drink water that is improperly processed and not safe," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Besides the bottled water products, Muña disclosed that some undeclared items were also found inside the container, including tires and vehicle starters.

Some 10,000 campaign materials such as banners were also in the shipment, Muña said, but these were released as they were declared by the consignee.

"We're not holding the cargo because of the campaign materials or whatever political reasons. Those materials have been released because they were properly declared. Those undeclared items were the only ones we hold," Muña said.

The Customs director estimated the tax to be collected from these undeclared items at $1,608.

"If they want them released, the consignee needs to pay the proper taxes. However, he has yet to talk to me about this," he said.

Saipan Tribune learned that the consignee is a water company operator on island.

As of press time, the consignee has yet to return this reporter's calls.

Enjoy the fruits of your Labor this weekend.
Treat your special someone to
an unforgettable dining experience.
Take pleasure in our Kitchen Stadium and
enjoy a variety of
ultimate international gourmet, dessert,
with all you can drink beverages
including wine personally selected by our
Executive Chef David Jones.
Enjoy live easy listening music by
"Mario Dallapozza" and "Ed Cruz"
famously known on Guam.
Look forward to seeing you at The Palms,
where every week is a new experience.
$40.00 adult & $20.00 child
(Dinner only)
$130.00 per person
Room/Dinner/Breakfast or Sunday Brunch
(based on a twin share)
Saturday, September 5, 2009
6:00 pm ~ 9:30 pm
Theater Hall
20% Local Discount
San Roque Club Welcome
Other conditions may apply.
The Palms on PauPau Beach
For more information, please call 322-3311.

COPPER

From Page 1

accessible at night.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong said the thieves removed the electrical wirings from four pavilions, including the main breaker from the park's stage.

Tan Holdings, which financed the renovation and upgrading of the park as a community project, has cancelled a back-to-school concert at the park this Saturday due to the incident.

Ed Arriola, corporate affairs officer of Tan Holdings, said they need $2,700 to replace the stolen items and restore power in the area.

Tarkong said police officers responded Friday at 8:08am to Susupe Regional Park after they received report about a copper wire theft incident.

Police Officer Rudolfo Hermosilla learned that a contractor, RPM Corp., had been at the park on Thursday with a Parks & Recreation staff and a representative of Tan Holdings to finalize the lighting project. At that time, the group found everything in place.

The next morning, Friday, the contractor arrived at the park to meet with personnel from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to finally hook up the power and that's when they discovered the crime.

The contractor discovered that the wires had been pulled out from the pipes from all four pavilions and the main breaker switch box was disconnected and pulled out. Police were then called.

First park

Tan Holdings executives and employees volunteered last year to clean up the abandoned park, considered the first park on Saipan.

Arriola said they are still thinking if they will replace the stolen wires because they might just be throwing money away.

"That's a big sum. We might just spend the money on some other school items for the students," he said.

He said they need to review the damage with their contractor.

"Some adjustments of the whole project must be done. There must be some kind of private-public partnership. We have to sit with the government to find solutions," Arriola said.

The cleanup last year was the first phase of the project, while the second phase was the installation of light fixtures, power outlets, breaker switches, and rewiring of the four pavilions and stage.

Arriola said this would have allowed the park to be lit at night. "It would have been beautiful. Sadly, last Thursday night's incident rendered this project useless," Arriola said.

Experts

He said the company spent $4,500 to get the project underway yet the estimated street value of the wires stolen is only about $100.

"Our company has been trying to get this park going for almost a year. Since our renovations it has consistently been used for gatherings and events. Prior to our work, this park had been underused and neglected," he said.

"How can Tan Holdings again spend $3,000 to get this place rewired? I could have given eight public schools $500 each to get paper and pencils for their students that would last a couple of months," he said.

Reward

Tarkong said the NMI Crime Stoppers Program is offering up to $1,000 cash to anyone who has information leading to the arrest of the copper wire thief or thieves. ***(With Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

ELECTION

From Page 1

Saipan Tribune learned this after board chair Frances Sablan confirmed that the board had a special meeting yesterday afternoon to discuss the issues raised by independent candidates on the new ballot design and format.

"We're going to address the issues [with the independent candidates]," Sablan said, after the board's executive session.

She disclosed that the election board's legal counsel will meet today with the legal counsel of the independent gubernatorial tandem of Juan T. Guerrero and Joseph Camacho to iron out problems.

"The meeting is now legal counsel to legal counsel of both parties," she said.

Guerrero's team filed Friday its strong opposition to the emergency regulation, which it described as unlawful and unconstitutional. The team said the regulations were changed without an emergency.

Board chair Sablan also confirmed receiving Rep. Tina Sablan's objection letter yesterday. Tina Sablan is among the independent candidates who will be running this November elections.

Camacho's and Sablan's complaint covered the same issues in the new emergency regulation. Both camps said the new ballot design and format favors candidates of established political parties.

CEC's Frances Sablan said the legal counsel of Guerrero's team will represent the issues of independent candidates.

When asked about the possibility of the board withdrawing the new regulations, Frances Sablan said: "All the issues raised will be addressed…and would be favorable to all involved."

She said the board will issue a public statement once the meeting with the independent legal counsel is completed.

Petitioners against the emergency regulation claimed that the new regulations and 2009 ballot design appear to be in violation of the intent of the CNMI law.

In 2006, with the support of the election commission, the 15th Legislature amended Public Law 14-87 to delete the requirement that all candidates of a recognized political party be listed consecutively on the ballot with all other candidates of the same party.

At that time, the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations had said the ballot design accounted for substantial differences in the percentage of valid votes counted in the 2005 election, compared to the 2003 election.

Unlike the ballot form used in 2003, the ballot form used in the 2005 election did not list all candidates of a political party consecutively with the other candidates of the same party. Instead, the names of candidates were organized according to the offices sought and indicated whether they were representing a political party or running independently.

In passing P.L. 15-7, the Legislature declared that it is in the best interest of the public to follow the ballot design used in the 2005 general election because it promotes less confusion and results in greater percentage of valid votes.

SAIPAN

From Page 1

In his prepared remarks, Fitial commended CUC management, staff and employees for their efforts in providing needed utility services, as well as the public and utilities customers for their "patience and understanding as we struggled through our CUC crisis."

"CUC was broken. We needed temporary generators. But now we have fixed CUC and we are going to do without these temporary generators from now on. This is progress," the governor said.

The crowd, composed mainly of Cabinet members, lawmakers and CUC personnel, applauded when CUC executive director Tony Muña announced that the Aggreko generators have been shut down.

Muña and Fitial said CUC's power plant 1 is now capable of producing 35.5 megawatts of power, an increase of 27.5 MW from Sept. 11, 2008 when CUC was producing only 8 MW from power plant 1.

At that time, CUC's main power plant was 15 MW short in power to ensure a 24-hour service for Saipan.

On Sept. 12, 2008, Aggreko generators came online to make up for CUC's production shortfall. Aggreko commissioned 15 megawatts of temporary, diesel-fired power generators that meant the difference between rolling blackouts and generally continuous electric service to CUC customers.

At the time, outages would go for an hour to eight hours and for up to four times a day, resulting in public outrage against CUC and the government. Days before Aggreko generators were commissioned, a rally was held during which CUC customers asked the federal government to put CUC under receivership, among other things.

CUC paid Aggreko some $6 million for the rented generators.

Fitial said CUC's capacity is "more than capable of replacing Aggreko's current output of 15 MW plus a reserve."

'Maintenance'

"Going forward, the maintenance effort at power plant 1 will continue to ensure such crisis and hardship endured by our people in the summer of 2008 will not be revisited," the governor said.

Muña assured the public that CUC will focus on three aspects of the operations to ensure that customers have access to power.

"Maintenance, maintenance, maintenance," he said.

Fitial also said he looks forward to CUC's efforts in improving its systems maintenance not only in power production, but also in power transmission and distribution, and water and wastewater services.

"No power outages, no water outages, and no wastewater backups. These are the standards we want to expect from CUC. Although we cannot reasonably expect CUC to be perfect, we expect CUC to constantly strive to minimize service interruptions to the greatest extent possible. This is the goal, and today we recognize that we have made great stride to attain this goal," he said.

The governor also recognized the help of the U.S. Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs for helping to provide millions in federal funds for the rehabilitation of power plant 1. OIA field representative Jeff Schorr represented the federal agency during the ceremony.

Toward the end of the ceremony, Muña recognized 23 CUC employees and seven supervisors involved in the rehabilitation project, along with CUC deputy director Wallon Young, power generation managing engineer Venugopal Prabhakara, and power plant manager Al Santos.

Because of the rolling blackouts and needed engine rehabilitation in the summer of last year, Fital declared a state of emergency for CUC in August 2008. He has since been extending the emergency declaration every month; the latest extension was signed on Friday.

CNMI

From Page 1

The total amount billed based on the seven invoices was $395,971.81.

As of April 17, the CNMI government has paid the Chicago-headquartered Jenner & Block LLP law firm $300,000.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial used funds from his discretionary account and from other accounts under the Office of the Governor to pay for the $300,000 in five separate payments and wire transfers.

Each of the seven invoices reflected amounts from a low of $12,035.01 to a high of $101,601.13.

One of the four lawyers in Jenner & Block, David W. Debruin, was paid $700 an hour for 23.75 hours, costing the CNMI government a total of $16,625.

Three other lawyers and personnel from the law firm were each paid $260 to $550 an hour.

The work done by these four in 161 hours cost the CNMI government a total of $69,013.75, based on a one-page breakdown of disbursements and a summary of professional services that went with an invoice dated Nov. 13, 2008.

These figures are based on the 30 pages of documents that assistant attorney general Braddock J. Huesman handed over to Rep. Tina Sablan (I-Saipan) at 5pm yesterday to comply with a CNMI Supreme Court order. The high court on Friday affirmed a lower court ruling that directed Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos to release to Sablan the documents showing how much the CNMI government is paying for the lawsuit it filed against the U.S. government to oppose federalization of local immigration.

The seven invoices, as well as a summary of one of the invoices, provided by Jenner & Block comprised the first few pages of the documents provided by the Office of the Attorney General to Sablan.

Each of the invoices reflected an 8 percent fee discount, totaling $33,520. Were it not for the discounts, the billing would have gone up to $429,491.81.

The first invoice, dated Aug. 26, 2008, amounted to $87,173.54.

Jenner & Block's Sept. 17, 2008 invoice amounted to $12,035.01.

An Oct. 9, 2008 invoice reflected an amount of $35,837.26.

On Nov. 13, Jenner & Block submitted an invoice totaling $64,094.88.

The following month, on Dec. 11, 2008, the law firm's invoice totaled $38,942.11.

On Jan. 23, 2009, it again submitted an invoice amounting to $56,287.88.

A month later or on Feb. 27, 2009, Jenner & Block's invoice reflected the highest amount of $101,601.13.

Fitial, through Jenner & Block and Willens, filed on Sept. 12, 2008, a lawsuit in federal court for the District of Columbia in a bid to block the pending federal takeover of local labor and immigration

'A long road'

Sablan invoked the Open Government Act when she sued Fitial and Inos, who were represented in the case by Huesman, to produce documents related to the federalization lawsuit.

At 5pm yesterday, Huesman walked from the Office of the Governor building to the front of the legislative building, where Sablan, along with Reps. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) and Ed Salas (R-Salas) and Glenn Hunter, were waiting.

After Huesman handed the documents to Sablan, they went inside the legislative building and stayed in the lobby as Sablan reviewed them one by one.

"It's been a long road," Sablan said, referring to her OGA lawsuit and the production of documents yesterday.

Sablan said she will thoroughly review the documents. "I have a feeling they will raise more questions than answer questions," she added.

She said the governor's special legal counsel, Howard Willens, also incurred costs to the government for his trips to Washington, D.C. in connection with the lawsuit, so the billings provided by Jenner & Block are not the only costs to the CNMI of the federalization lawsuit.

'Good faith'

Press secretary Charles Reyes, who provided the media copies of the same documents that the Office of the Attorney General gave to Sablan, said yesterday the public should "not lose sight of the reason for fighting federalization."

"The government was acting in good faith to protect a vital government function and uphold an urgent state interest in this case. By now, nearly every CNMI stakeholder has acknowledged the severe economic harms posed by federalization. The government was acting to protect our community's vital interests," he said earlier.

In the government's lawsuit, it said the labor provisions of the federalization law will violate the promises of self-government and economic development detailed in the Covenant between the CNMI and the United States.

The start of transition to federal immigration is set for Nov. 28, 2009, after it was pushed back by 180 days from June 1, the maximum allowed by law.

Public disclosure

Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan and Associate Justices John A. Manglona and Alexandro C. Castro, in a decision issued Friday, said public disclosure legislation provides a vehicle for citizens to remain informed about the decisions of agencies and offices throughout the CNMI.

CNMI prepares for low demand tourism months

The annual pendulum swing of low demand tourism months is going to be especially challenging this year, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

During the so-called "shoulder" months of October to mid-December, MVA is expecting a double digit reduction in air seat capacity from the Northern Mariana Islands' primary markets of Japan and Korea. Due to low outbound demand from Japan and Korea, airlines serving the NMI have announced they are reducing flights.

"October through December is normally the slowest season of the year for tourism, and major carriers to the NMI will be cutting flights due to low demand for outbound travel in general and for the CNMI," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "All other leisure beach destinations are seeing similar weak demand for this period, including Hawaii and Guam, with equivalent reductions in airlift."

Beginning October, double daily Continental Airline charters from Narita which were launched to capitalize on the peak summer season will stop as scheduled. Also, Delta Airlines will cut its Nagoya-Saipan daily flights to only 10 total flights in October and November, resulting in an 82 percent loss of weekly air seats out of the Nagoya market to an average 228 seats. Asiana Airlines will reduce its four weekly Osaka-Saipan flights to only one, resulting in at 75 percent loss of weekly air seats to 250.

"The aircraft will generally be parked, as the suspension is just for the weakest demand days, with regular service using the aircraft the other days of the week," said Tenorio. "The Northern Marianas must continue to maintain our marketing presence in Japan and Korea until the anticipated turnaround in mid-December with the peak yearend season."

The Delta Nagoya-Saipan flight is slated to resume its normal schedule on Dec. 20. Although there will be no Osaka-Saipan flights by Asiana for the first half of December, the route is expected to rebound on Dec. 17 with a total of seven weekly flights—or 1750 weekly air seats—through March 1, 2010. Finally, from the start of 2010, Delta will also run four extra morning flights from Narita to Saipan to capitalize on strong winter demand, continuing the strong rebound in airlift anticipated for early 2010 following the weak fall season.

September 2009 will also be a challenging month for the Korea market, as Saipan loses half of both its four weekly morning flights from Seoul and its four nightly flights from Busan. However, airlift from Korea is anticipated to recover beginning Oct. 1, 2009, with morning flights from Seoul to Saipan by Asiana Airlines doubling to four times a week. This increase, scheduled to continue through March 1, 2010, will make an additional 354 seats available each week. Also, the Busan-Saipan night route will double to four times a week from Dec. 20, 2009, through February 2010. This increase will add 282 seats per week from Busan during the period. Nightly flights from Seoul will remain constant during the period.

"The shoulder months of this fall underscore the importance of having diverse markets for the NMI," said Tenorio. "Our secondary markets of China and Russia continue to help the tourism industry keep its head above water, and we hope the U.S. Department of Homeland Security understands how vital the inclusion of these countries is in the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program that will be implemented under immigration federalization. They are helping keep the industry afloat."

The federal government is scheduled to assumed control of immigration in the NMI in November 2009. The NMI is seeking to have continued access to visitors from the mainland China and Russia through the new Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program. The new regulations for the program have yet to be released by the Department of Homeland Security. ***(MVA)***

'Federalization uncertainties stymie decision of investors'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An international school, an international furniture manufacturer, and a drilling company are interested in taking over the property of defunct garment manufacturer Grace International Inc. but uncertainties brought by the federal takeover of local immigration is causing negotiations to drag on.

According to court documents, the interested buyers are Roy Alexander of Alexander Drilling Co., Eucon International School, and a big international furniture company. The property is located along Texas Road in Susupe.

On Thursday, the U.S. District Court for the NMI will hear a motion to approve the sale of Grace's leasehold interest on the property to Alexander Drilling for $100,000. Xian Xiaoli, through the O'Connor law firm, asked the court to approve the sale.

But Grace, through counsel Eric Smith, objected to the sale, saying more time is needed for negotiations with other interested buyers.

Xiaoli filed a discrimination lawsuit in federal court against Grace International in 2007. She alleged that she acquired a disability during the course of her third year of work at the factory and her contract was not renewed.

The federal court entered a judgment in Xiaoli's favor in the total amount of $78,103. Grace assigned to Xiaoli its rights to recover from the U.S. certain taxes it may have erroneously paid. However, the U.S. denied any error. Litigation for these taxes continues.

The O'Connor law firm asked the court to transfer the title of Grace's leasehold property to Xiaoli or transfer to her all of Grace's rights to rental payments for the property in partial satisfaction of the judgment.

In opposing the sale to Alexander Drilling, Grace wants more time in order to negotiate a better price with two other interested buyers—a furniture company and Eucon.

Smith said Roy Alexander wants to use the property for storing his drilling trucks and equipment and housing his workers.

Smith said a large company is negotiating with Grace's owners in China to obtain the leasehold interest in the property.

The lawyer said the large company wants to manufacture furniture to be sold in the U.S. market through Guam.

With respect to Eucon International School, it is presently operating a school along Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

Smith said Eucon's present location is apparently not large enough for their needs and relocating to the facility behind the Nauru Building (where Grace factory used to operate) would permit its students to be housed in dormitories on its campus. He said negotiations is ongoing.

Smith said the amount of the listing price for the assignment is substantially greater than the offer made to Alexander Drilling.

With the advent of federal immigration takeover, Smith said many questions are presently unanswered regarding who will be able to enter the CNMI and who will be excluded under federal law.

"Third parties interested in expanding their existing businesses or entering into new ventures are doing so with extreme caution," he said.

The O'Connor law firm asserted that they have no objection to Grace seeking or securing a better offer from another buyer, provided such buyer makes its offer before the hearing of the motion.

But at present, the law firm said, neither the furniture manufacturer nor the school has made any offer for the property.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Department of Labor

Afetna Sq. Building, 2nd floor, San Antonio, Saipan MP

NOTICES

EMPLOYERS OF FOREIGN WORKERS

Uncertainty remains as to whether the Commonwealth will continue to operate its labor system and all Commonwealth labor laws will remain in effect, or federal law will come into effect in November. The Court has not yet decided the Commonwealth's challenge to federalization of the labor function. In any event, the federal legislation requires the U.S. to respect CNMI work/entry permits issued prior to the date of federalization for the length of the permit but not to exceed two years. Employers of foreign workers should take action before September 30, 2009 to ensure that the necessary permits are issued.

PENDING PERMIT APPLICATIONS WITH DEFICIENCIES. The Division of Labor Processing Section is up to date. Applications submitted more than 15 days ago have been reviewed. Permits for approved applications have been issued. If a permit has not been issued it is likely that the application is deficient or denied. If that is the case, the deficiencies must be corrected or an appeal of the denial must be filed. Applications cannot be approved until the problems have been corrected. Employers and employees should check the Labor website (HYPERLINK "http://www.marianaslabor.net" www.marianaslabor.net) to review the Deficiencies/Denials. The website will show the reason for the deficiency/denial.

NEW PERMIT APPLICATIONS. Employers may use a number of tools, available by law and regulation, to maximize the duration of the work/entry permits of their foreign workers. Two Year Permit: Employers may apply for a two-year permit for renewal, transfer, or new applications. The two-year permit requires payment of the fee for two years and submission of a bond for two years along with all other requirements. Contract Extension: An employer may extend a contract for up to six months. This requires submission of a contract extension; a bond for the extension period; and payment of $35.00 per month for each month of extension. Contract Amendment (Adding Additional Year): Employers may amend a contract to change it from a one-year to a two-year term. This requires submission of a contract amendment; a two year bond; payment of a $25.00 amendment fee; updated health certificate; and payment of the second year application fee. Contract Amendment (To Shorten Term): Employers may amend the expiration date of an existing contract to shorten the term. This requires submission of a contract amendment and payment of a $25.00 amendment fee. The employer may then renew for a two year term.

If you have any questions you may contact Acting Director of Labor, Glenda Reyes, at 236-0944 or by e-mail at greyes@cnmi-gov.net

FOREIGN NATIONAL WORKERS

Uncertainty remains as to whether the Commonwealth will continue to operate its labor system and all Commonwealth labor laws will remain in effect, or federal law will come into effect in November. The Court has not yet decided the Commonwealth's challenge to federalization of the labor function. In any event, the federal legislation requires the U.S. to respect CNMI work/entry permits issued prior to the date of federalization for the length of the permit but not to exceed two years. Foreign workers should ensure that they have current status to remain in the Commonwealth. Do not wait for someone else to take action with respect to your status. If you have a question about the processing of your application, please come to the office of the Director of Labor to inquire and make certain that you have the correct information. It takes some time to correct deficiencies or to process papers, and this cannot be done at the last minute in November. You should get disputes resolved promptly. A pending labor case, denial case, or court case may not provide employment status to remain in the Commonwealth unless the Commonwealth retains its labor functions.

SMALL BUSINESS EMPLOYERS OF FOREIGN WORKERS

As of October 1, 2009, business employers with fewer than five employees must employ at least one U.S. citizen on a full-time basis. Section 4526(a) of Public Law 15-108 provides: "The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to employers of fewer than five (5) employees, provided however, the Secretary may, by regulation, require each business to have at least one employee who is a citizen or permanent resident . . . ." By regulation, the Secretary has lifted this exemption and required each business (other than owner-operated businesses with no employees) to employ at least one U.S. citizen. See Section 30.2-705 of the Department's regulations, as amended. The Division of Employment Services will monitor compliance beginning on October 1, 2009. Non-compliance may result in the revocation of the entry/work permits of the employer's foreign workers.

CLOSURE OF 2008 and PRIOR YEAR CASES

First notice, September 1, 2009
Second notice, September 4, 2008

LABOR CASES

Notice is hereby given by the Department of Labor that all labor cases filed in 2008 and prior years have been closed. If you have a case from the years 2008 and prior (beginning with the letters LC and the numbers 08, 07, 06, 05, 04, 03, 02, 01, 00, 99, 98, or 97) that you believe remains open, please bring the complaint document to Jeff Camacho, Supervisor, Enforcement Division, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetna Sq. Building, San Antonio, Saipan on or before September 15, 2009.

AGENCY CASES

Notice is hereby given by the Department of Labor that all agency cases filed in 2008 and prior years have been closed. If you were a named participant in a case from the years 2008 and prior (beginning with the letters CAC and the numbers 08, 07, 06, 05, 04, 03, 02, 01, 00, 99, 98, or 97) and you believe your claims remain open, please bring your documents to Jeff Camacho, Supervisor, Enforcement Division, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetna Sq. Building, San Antonio, Saipan on or before September 15, 2009.

DENIAL CASES

Notice is hereby given by the Department of Labor that all denial cases filed in 2008 and prior years have been closed. If you have a case from the years 2008 and prior (beginning with the letters DC and the numbers 08, 07, 06, 05, 04, 03, 02, 01, 00, 99, 98, or 97) that you believe remains open, please bring the denial document to Dennis Cabrera, Clerk, Administrative Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetna Sq. Building, San Antonio, Saipan on or before September 15, 2009.

TRANSFER CASES

Notice is hereby given by the Department of Labor that all matters involving transfers filed in 2008 and prior years have been closed. If you have a transfer matter from the years 2008 and prior that you believe remains open, please bring your documents to Jeff Camacho, Supervisor, Enforcement Division, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetna Sq. Building, San Antonio, Saipan on or before September 15, 2009.

APPEALS AND REMANDS

Notice is hereby given by the Department of Labor that all appeals to the Secretary filed in 2008 and prior years have been closed. If you have an appeal from the years 2008 and prior (beginning with the letters SA and the numbers 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998, or 1997) that you believe remains open, please bring the appeal document to Mary Agulto, Executive Assistant, Office of the Secretary, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetna Sq. Building, San Antonio, Saipan on or before September 15, 2009.

This is a final notice.

Hammer attack suspect had been 'acting strangely'

The suspect in the hammer attack on a man who was sleeping in his barracks last week had been acting strangely the past several weeks, Saipan Tribune learned.

Sources disclosed that prior to the attack on Friday, the defendant, Faqiang Chen, 39, Chinese, seemed paranoid, saying that someone was trying to kill him.

Chen, a maintenance worker, had complained to his employer that someone had been planning to murder him.

"Whenever he sees a Chinese man, he believes that person is out to kill him," a source said.

The employer decided to report Chen's claim to the Department of Public Safety. A police officer who speaks Mandarin talked with Chen regarding his claim.

The maintenance worker, however, instead showed the officer some items in his barracks to deny he was involved in a burglary case.

Chen apparently started acting strangely after a burglary occurred in one of the stores located in the building where he works.

Chen was arrested when he allegedly attacked his friend with a hammer. The victim, who was sleeping in his barracks in San Antonio Friday early morning, was repeatedly hit on the head with the hammer.

The victim, a 53-year-old Chinese, sustained lacerations on the forehead and the scalp. He was last listed in stable condition at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Chen was arrested for attempted murder, aggravated assault, and assault with a dangerous weapon. He was not injured, police said.

Police preliminary investigation showed that while the victim was sleeping inside his room, Chen came and struck him several times on the head with a hammer.

DPS said on Friday that no exact motive has been established yet in the attack. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Trial starts for ex-convict charged with stabbing naked woman

The jury trial of an ex-convict who is facing charges of stabbing a naked woman in the bathroom of her barracks began in the Superior Court yesterday.

John Vincent M. Namauleg, 38, appeared before Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, for the jury selection.

Chief Public Defender Adam Hardwicke is counsel for Namauleg. Assistant attorney general Matthew Meyer is prosecuting the case.

Jury selection was still ongoing as of late afternoon yesterday.

Once a jury is impaneled, the judge usually gives them instructions, followed by the opening arguments of the prosecution and the defense.

Police arrested Namauleg in February 2008 after he allegedly repeatedly stabbed and seriously injured a woman who was showering in the bathroom of her barracks in Afetna.

According to court papers, when police officers arrived at the scene, they found the victim, a Chinese woman, with a knife still lodged in her nape. Doctors at the Commonwealth Health Center removed the knife during an operation.

The victim is now paralyzed on the left side of her body and legs. She sustained three stab wounds—one on the left collar, another on the right side of the neck, and one on the spinal cord.

Police investigation showed that the victim had just arrived from church and was about to take a shower when the defendant, armed with a knife, entered the bathroom.

The victim screamed for help and witnesses saw the shirtless Namauleg climbing the stairs to the rooftop of a store.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Namauleg with attempted murder, aggravated assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and contempt of court.

In March 2006, Namauleg pleaded guilty to theft and forgery. His probation in this theft case ended on Jan. 30, 2008. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Manglona raises 'delay' in scholarship disbursement

Administrator says they're not behind schedule

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A week after Fall semester classes began on Aug. 24, CNMI scholars have yet to receive their financial assistance from the local government.

This prompted Sen. Paul Manglona to check with the CNMI Scholarship Office why the checks are being held up, particularly since most of the students are already attending classes off-island.

Manglona said that classes at NMC started on Aug. 24, and many others have left the island for their studies in Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland.

CNMI Scholarship administrator Merissa Seman-Rasa confirmed that checks for both off-island and on-island scholars have not been disbursed to date, although her office had completed its job of requesting the checks from the Finance Department.

"We've done the check request and completed our part. We're now just waiting for the checks to be printed by the Finance Department," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

She disclosed that close to 500 students are scheduled to receive the first batch of checks this week or next week.

Seman-Rasa described the issuance schedule as within the normal range of disbursements, which is the last week of August.

"Hopefully by this week or next week, checks may be disbursed or as soon as Finance prints the checks," she said, adding that she cannot speak for Finance as to when it would finish the job. She had no confirmation yesterday as to when the checks would be issued.

She explained that processing the checks for disbursement takes one to three weeks after her office makes the request.

At the same time, only the approved scholars will get their financial assistance soon.

"For those who are not approved, it's because they haven't submitted and completed their application package. Our rule is whoever gets their stuff first and after we review it, we make the request to the Finance Department," she said, adding that there is no off-island or on-island priority list.

Seman-Rasa expressed "surprise" at Manglona's inquiry, saying the disbursement of checks normally comes every last week of August.

Besides the "delayed" disbursement, Manglona also wants Seman-Rasa to provide him with the amount of funding needed to restore the cuts in scholarship amounts that were implemented this Fall semester.

The CNMI Scholarship Office reduced the financial assistance it provides to recipients of the Educational Assistance Program from last school year's $3,960 to this year's $3,600, which is 9 percent lower. Each EAP scholar who applies for college here or abroad will be awarded just $1,880 per semester.

Seman-Rasa earlier said the limited budget for scholarship programs is the sole reason for the small cut in the awards. Another reason is the large jump in the number of applicants this year.

In Fiscal Year 2009, the government allocated $3 million to the Scholarship Office. Of the amount, $10,000 is for operation and personnel. The rest goes to the scholarship grants.

Program for divorcing parents airs today

The Family Court Division has developed an educational program for parents who are separating or divorcing.

The session is conducted by Linda Graf, national certified counselor, certified professional mediator, licensed clinical professional counselor, and certified rehabilitation counselor; and Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, associate judge with the CNMI Superior Court and Family Court judge.

A video production of the program will be aired today, Sept. 1, 2009, on Channel 2 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The parent education sessions covers the following objectives based on the Family Court Division's Parent Education Curriculum:

■ Provide a summary of the CNMI laws regarding custody and what the Family Court expects from the parents;

■ Provide information about how divorce affects children, their reactions and how parents can help their children cope with these emotional issues;

■ Provide information about the grieving process during divorce for both parents and children;

■ Help parents understand that children adjust to the separation/divorce based on how their parents cope with the challenges of divorce;

■ Educate parents on the impact of divorce based on the ages and stages of their children;

■ Educate couples on coping skills and understanding the need for a business like relationship with their ex-partner as they will always be mother and father to their children and it is their responsibility to help their children find acceptance and healthy adjustment to the change in the family;

■ Help parents understand that how their children experience the divorce will affect their well being for the rest of their lives; and

■ Help parents understand that children are not divorceable.

Anyone interested should view the session on Sept. 1, 2009 on Channel 2 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Those interested in personally attending the session should contact the Family Court Division to register for next available scheduled session.

This project was supported by a grant awarded to the CNMI Criminal Justice Planning Agency by the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of the Justice Programs, U. S. Department of Justice and the CNMI Government, and sub-granted by the CJPA Supervisory Counsel. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.O. Box 502641 Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel. Nos.: (670) 664-3300 - 3302 • Fax: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL MEDIA SERVICES

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a **Parole and Revocation Hearing** is scheduled for **September 16, 2009, (Wednesday)** beginning at **9:00a.m.**, and **if need be, to continue on, September 17, 2009, (Thursday) at 9:00 a.m.** at the **Vicente Taman Seman Building, Department of Corrections Briefing/Training Room**, Susupe, Saipan. The following items are included in the agenda:

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Presence of Quorum

II. Consent Items
1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Adoption of Parole Hearing Minutes - June 09, 2009

III. Parole Application	BOP No.	Criminal Case No.
1. George Ilo	09-003	0300253D
2. Anthony B. Magofna	09-009	00-162B
3. Chuan Fei Huang	09-011	08-0100E
4. Simon Sebuu	09-012	07-0109E
5. Paqual K. Deleon Guerrero	09-013	07-0011
6. Scott Santos	09-014	08-0219
7. Benson John Dela Cruz	09-015	06-0237C

IV. Revocation	BOP No.	Criminal Case No.
1. Mark Wayne Torres	07-004	00-012D

V. Miscellaneous	BOP No.	Criminal Case No.
1. Dewayne Sibetang re: Psychiatric Evaluation Report	05-019	00-0164D
2. Pedro Omar re: CHC Medical Status	09-001	02-0339C

VI. Other
Parole Matters

VII. Adjournment

If you have any questions, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho, Chairman, Board of Parole — August 27, 2009

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322-0430

Tinian's free books program to continue

The permanent closure of the lone donation center on Tinian has been temporarily averted, with the relocation of the Helping-Hands Books and Donation Center to the founder's home.

According to maïa, she will be running what will now be called "maia's Helping-Hands Free Books Center" in her home, which is half of the duplex behind the Tinian Mayor's Office, where the donation center used to be located. The center has been providing free clothing and other donated goods to Tinian residents for the past two years.

Since the owner of the building needed to rent out the other half, maia had to close down the donation center last month. Instead of going to Guam, however, where she was asked by a local mayor to start one for his in-need people, maïa has decided that she will stay with what she says has become "her family" in the nearly four years she has been helping Tinian residents with the center and writing assistance, among other things.

CONTACT INFO

Tel: 670/433-9993 (GMT+10, for those overseas),
Mail: P.O. Box 474, Tinian, MP 96952.
E-mail: maia3maia@hotmail.com

"I just can't leave, when there's still *something* I can do here," she said. "And I'm still hoping official support will be provided, in either rent for this building, or the use of another suitable space, so I can reopen the donation center and go on helping the people here to help each other, as they've been doing so wonderfully, for over three years now. It will be needed more and more as time goes on, sad to say, thanks to the global recession and our own weak economy."

maïa plans to have the "Free Books Center" open again by this week. All that's needed, she says, is volunteer help and a truck to bring back the shelves and boxes of books that had to be stored elsewhere for the time being. Also needed is a safe and dry place to store the boxes of clothing and tables, until a new home can be found for the donation center.

"If anyone who reads this can help me find a building, or get the CNMI government to help, by budgeting just the small amount it will take to reopen the donation center, please contact me ASAP," pleaded this 71-year-old lady who just won't give up. "'Til then," she added, "tell everyone I still have books for young and old… and hope enough toys will be donated, so I'll be able to hold a '*Fourth* Annual Christmas Giveaway' this year."

maia may be contacted by phone at 670/433-9993 (GMT+10, for those overseas), or by mail, at P.O. Box 474, Tinian, MP 96952. Her e-mail address is maia3maia@hotmail.com. ***(PR)***

Troop 902 Garapan holds 2-day scouting camp

Fifteen boys from Troop 902 Garapan Boy Scouts of America held a two-day scouting camp in Paupau Beach on Friday and Saturday.

Aloha Council BSA island director Calistro Reyes said everybody enjoyed the outdoor games and the campfire—all of which were main components in broadening the children's outlook in life.

Cub scout Mark Guevarra said he joined the camp to gain more friends. It was his first time.

"I'm enjoying the fun," said the 9-year old student of Garapan Elementary School.

Another neophyte camper, 13-year old Calvin Huliganga of Hopwood Junior High School, said his mom encouraged him to join the group.

"I like playing basketball and football but it's also nice to experience how to be a boy scout," he said.

For 12-year-old Jose Duenas, who enters Hopwood this school year, it was his first time to build a tent.

"At first I needed help from the other scouts then I finally learn how to build my own tent," he said.

The boys trekked around Marpi on Friday morning before setting up camps in Paupau Beach. The boys had a campfire each night.

The scouts are Michael Garon (senior patrol leader), Lance Garon (patrol leader), Jose Duenas (assistant patrol leader), chjaster Floresca, Vladimir Del Rosario, Calvin Huliganga , Reno Celis III, Darryl Anonuevo, Alfredo Ngalongalo Jr., Michael Bandoja, Adrian Jade Ngalongalo, Lester Guevarra, Braylan Florescsa, Lawrence Guevarra and Mark Guevarra.

Reyes said the two-day camp would have not been successful without the leadership of scoutmaster Dennis Floresca, assistant scoutmaster Efren Mejia, cub scoutmaster Willy Garon and round table committee scout Robert Aldan.

He also gave credit to the full support of David M. Sablan of Century Insurance, who is the district committee chairman.

Reyes also thanked the kids' parents for their full support and to Jess Muna for bringing in three kids from Kagman.

"Our plan is to visit Tinian and Rota and organize a troop there, then we should hold a bigger activity for all the kids in the CNMI in the future," Reyes said. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Photo shows the members of Troop 902 Garapan Boy Scouts of America taking a break for a picture during their two-day camp in Paupau Beach.

DCCA urges Kilili to co-sponsor bill to expand after-school meals

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs has urged the CNMI's representative to U.S. Congress, Gregorio Kilili Sablan, to co-sponsor a bill that seeks to expand the after-school meals program.

The After School Meals Act of 2009 (S.B. 990/H.B. 3321) was recently introduced in both houses, sponsored by senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Richard Lugar (R-IN), and representatives Gwen Moore (D-WI) and Andre Carson (D-IN).

This proposed legislation seeks to authorize a nationwide expansion of the after-school meal program, giving schools the option of providing supper through the School Lunch/Breakfast Programs or through the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Acting DCCA Secretary Melvin O. Faisao said this would make it easier for school administrators to manage their meals programs.

In his Thursday letter to Sablan, Faisao said that co-sponsoring this legislation would ensure the inclusion of a provision to provide funding and encourage the participation of legitimate childcare centers not only in the U.S. mainland but also in all U.S. territories.

Faisao said that, so far, there are only 10 states that benefit from this program: Delaware, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Vermont, and Maryland.

"DCCA firmly believes that equal distribution of such benefits should be extended to all other states and territories," Faisao said.

The Act, he said, would ensure that low-income children have access to nutritious meals after school.

"The nutritious suppers draw children into educational and enrichment activities that not only keep children learning, but also keep them after during the after-school hours, when juvenile crime peaks," Faisao stressed.

Evaluations of after-school programs show that participating children are less likely to be involved in crime and have lower incidence of drug use, violence and pregnancy.

The Public School System will be serving a total of 4.4 million free meals to both private and public school students this school year.

All meals will be covered by the federal nutrition assistance grant for Fiscal Year 2010, amounting to $8.4 million, including breakfast and lunch for the estimated 14,000 children in 45 schools and 10 Head Start centers in the CNMI.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 1, 1999

House approves $60M bond float

To deal with concerns of potential bond investors, the House of Representatives yesterday recalled from the governor and then amended a measure that will set into motion an ambitious government plan to loan up to $60 million for its infrastructure projects. Rep. Karl T. Reyes, chair of the House Ways and Means Committee and proponent of the bill, said the change would allow the CNMI to issue bonds in one or more series rather than a one-shot deal that is likely to be more costly in the end. The amendment will also help convince investment firms to buy the bonds as the Commonwealth Development Authority, lead agency for the financing scheme, will be permitted to pledge additional security in terms of repayment ability of the island government.

Ex-mayor's aide charged for attempt to influence juror

An aide of former Tinian Mayor Herman Manglona has been charged at the federal court for allegedly trying to influence and intimidate a grand juror into voting against the indictment of the former municipal chief who is facing corruption charges. Charged by the U.S. Attorney's Office was James King Manglona, also known as Jose Hofschneider. According to FBI investigation, Hofschneider approached the grand juror last Aug. 25 and offered to "reward" her if she would vote "no" to the indictment of Manglona, who is now a senator representing Tinian.

Sept 1, 2000

$3M eyed for retro pay hike

The Senate will push for guaranteed funding of between $2 million to $3 million for payment of the long-overdue salary increase for government employees under the FY 2001 budget proposal, according to a key member. Sen. Edward U. Maratita, chair of the Fiscal Affairs Committee, expressed dismay that the House of Representatives failed to appropriate money to meet this obligation to about 2,000 former and current employees. The lower house last week approved the proposed spending package amounting to $221.66 million which will oil operations of departments and agencies beginning this October 1 until September 30, 2001.

CPA readies to roll back airport fees

The Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors will convene on Saturday to act on the request by CNMI signatory carriers to roll back existing passenger departure fees following projections by airline executives that passenger traffic will increase in the next two years. Citing a study carried out by CPA financial consultant Rex I. Palacios, acting Board Chair Roman Tudela mentioned the possibility of a rollback in passenger departure fees from $8 to $5.79 but added that the reduced fees may only be implemented until the end of September.

Sept 1, 2001

Visit breaks new grounds with Japan

Gov. Juan N. Babauta met Wednesday with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi at the Prime Minister's residence in central Tokyo-the first time a CNMI Governor has been accorded an interview with the leader of Japan, the world's second largest economy and arguably the CNMI's most important trade and investment partner. Babauta led a delegation that included Senate President Paul A. Manglona, House Vice Speaker Manuel A. Tenorio, Resident Representative Pedro A. Tenorio, Secretary of Finance Frank Villanueva, MVA Board member James Lin, Homeland Security Director Jerry Crisostomo and Senior Policy Advisor Bob Schwalbach. Babauta expressed the gratitude of the Marianas people to Koizumi for the time he was going to meet with the island delegation.

Labor Day spirit lives on

Even before today's traditional Labor Day celebrations, a day before tomorrow's national holiday, government and private employees joined other groups to picnic, enjoy Saipan's beaches and paddle for fun aboard canoes. Some government officials joined their respective groups in a fun race organized by the Northern Mariana Island's Canoe Federation at a beach in Susupe in paddling their canoes, as family members and other participants did anything under the sun, literally. House Rep. Andrew Salas, a member of the Napu Club, said his group won the fun race. He said his group was the first canoe club in the Commonwealth organized five years ago.

TSL Foundation launches scholarship for NMC students

In its ongoing efforts to promote higher education among CNMI students, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation has announced that it is providing scholarships to 10 deserving students of the Northern Marianas College.

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation Scholarship program will provide $1,000 per scholarship recipient.

"We realize the central role that the Northern Marianas College plays in the personal development of individual CNMI students and—on a larger scale—the CNMI's workforce," said Dr. Tan Siu Lin. "We want to support that role by providing financial assistance to students who can excel academically and professionally."

The Tan Holdings Foundation was formed in 2002, and was recently renamed after the company's founder and chairman, Dr. Tan Siu Lin. Through the years, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation has launched initiatives and built trusted partnerships with a diverse array of individuals, families, corporations, nonprofits, and government agencies. These partners represent many different backgrounds, and income levels. The foundation's main mission is to better serve the regions where it operates to make such communities a better place to live in.

"We are extremely grateful to the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for providing these scholarships," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "They will go a long way in helping our students achieve their educational goals."

The college offers associate's degrees in business administration, liberal arts, nursing, natural resource management, criminal justice, and hospitality management.

The scholarships are based on merit and will be awarded to the recipient on the basis of the candidate's community involvement, academic background, and letters of recommendation. The applicant's written essay, where the applicant will write about why he or she is the most deserving of the scholarship, will play a key role in the final selection of scholarship recipients.

IN BRIEF

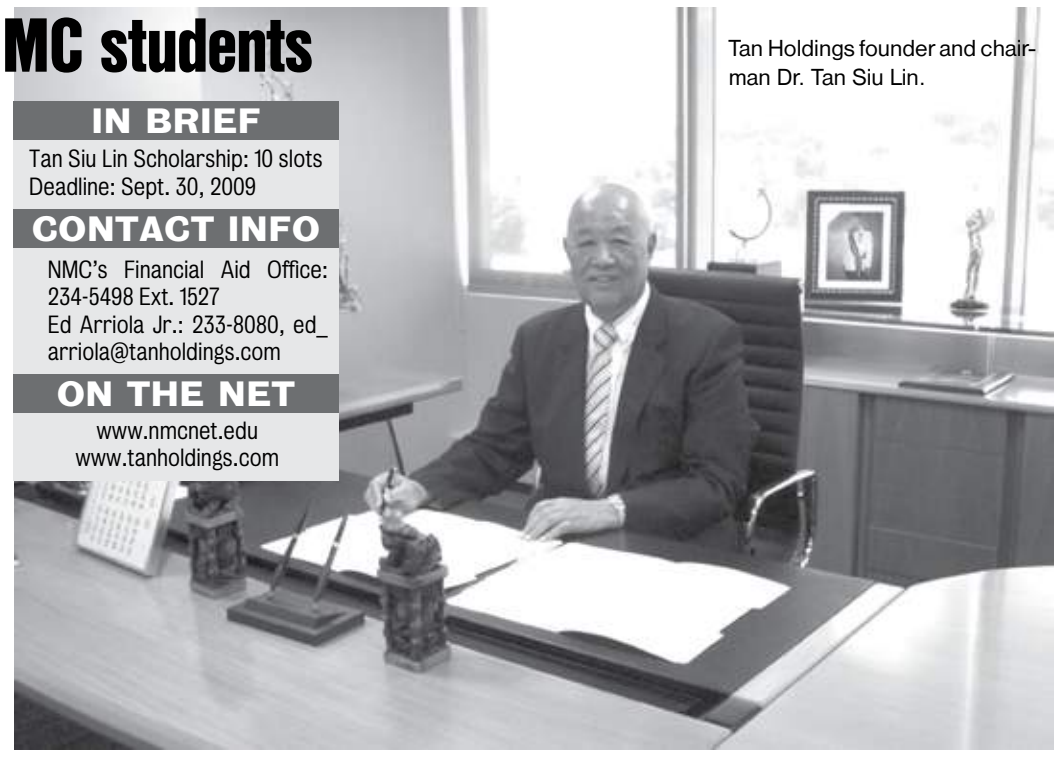
Tan Siu Lin Scholarship: 10 slots
Deadline: Sept. 30, 2009

CONTACT INFO

NMC's Financial Aid Office: 234-5498 Ext. 1527
Ed Arriola Jr.: 233-8080, ed_arriola@tanholdings.com

ON THE NET

www.nmcnet.edu
www.tanholdings.com



Tan Holdings founder and chairman Dr. Tan Siu Lin.

The deadline for submitting applications for the Tan Siu Lin Scholarship Sept. 30, 2009. Applications and additional information can be downloaded from www.nmcnet.edu or www.tanholdings.com, or contact either the NMC's Financial Aid Office at 234-5498 extension 1527 or Ed Arriola, Jr. at 233-8080 or ed_arriola@tanholdings.com. ***(PR)***

Volunteers sought for int'l coastal cleanup on Rota

The Coastal Resources Management Office and Ocean Conservancy will host the 24th Annual International Coastal Cleanup on Friday, Sept. 18, on the island of Rota.

The cleanup will start at 8:30am. The staging location and meeting place is at the Pinatang (Finagatan) Park Pavilion.

Those who would like to volunteer and participate are urged to sign up at the CRM office or contact ICC coordinator William T. Pendergrass or CRMO administrative clerk MJ Taisacan at 532-0466; fax 532-1000.

The International Coast Cleanup is the world's largest volunteer effort to help protect the ocean and waterways. Each year, hundreds of thousands of volunteers from around the world spend a few hours removing trash and debris from beaches, lakes, and rivers keeping track of every piece of trash they find. Ocean Conservancy uses that information to produce an annual country-by-country, state-by-state index of the problem of marine debris.

During the 2008 Cleanup nearly 400,000 volunteers removed 6.8 million pounds of debris, from 6,485 sites in 100 countries and 42 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

"The ocean is our life support system, yet marine debris continues to threaten its health. Trash littering our beaches and choking our ecosystems is a threat to wildlife, our coastal economies, and ultimately to the ability of the ocean to sustain us," said Vikki Spruill President and CEO of Ocean Conservancy. "The cleanup gives everyone a chance to work in their backyards and be a part of this special movement for our oceans." ***(PR)***

NOTICE TO ALL BOATERS

This is to inform the general public that the Division of Fish and Wildlife has deployed Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) at the following positions:

Latitude	Longitude	Buoy	General Area
15'21 35 N	145'50 05 E	AA	North of Saipan
14'59 30 N	145'43 48 E	CC	East of Tinian
14'05 48 N	145'09 12 E	DD	SE of Rota
14'12 42 N	145'10 48 E	EE	NNW of Rota
15'59 54 N	145'27 42 E	FF	West of Tinian
15'04 36 N	145'32 56 E	GG	West of Tinian
15'09 51 N	145'28 15 E	HH	SW of Saipan
15'14 54 N	145'29 47 E	II	West of Saipan
15'19 19 N	145'32 20 E	JJ	West of Saipan
15'17 11 N	145'41 20 E	KK	NW of Managaha
15'20 45 N	145'46 00 E	LL	SW Marpi Reef

- **Coordinates are set in WGS84 datum.**
- **Units are in Degrees Minutes Seconds (D/M/S).**
- **Buoys have a drift range of .5 nautical miles from the above-mentioned positions.**

These FAD's are to be utilized for the sole purpose of recreational fishing. Boaters are advised not to anchor/moor onto any of these systems as they may cause damage to the buoy. This project is funded by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Grant. Copies of the positions and map are available on the CNMI Division of Fish & Wildlife website: (http://www.dfw.gov.mp/Fisheries/FAD_Locations_60909.html).

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Statewide Independent Living Council
FY 09' 3rd General Membership Meeting
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950, TEL.: (670)322-6537 FAX: (670)322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL:voc.rehab@saipan.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 09 3rd General Membership Meeting on Thursday, September 3, 2009 at the Giovanni's Private Room Hyatt Regency Saipan at 10:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order/Preliminaries
- Review and Adoption of Agenda
- Review and Adoption of 03/12/09 Minutes

II. Reports
- OVR Director's Report
- CLI Director's Report
- SILC Chairperson Report
- 24th Annual International Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference Presentation by Lydia Igitol

III. Old Business
- Follow up on SPIL Amendments/ Joint State Plan Forums for Saipan, Tinian, & Rota
- SILC Empowerment & Advocacy Activities
- Authorization for Disclosure

IV. New Business
- Status of ARRA funds CIL

V. Announcements
- Joint SILC/SRC Meeting

VI. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Magin Iginoef (Council Liaison) two days in advanced for necessary arrangements.

Kaye Christian
SILC Chairperson

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The tumult in Tehran

The protesters have been routed from the streets of Tehran, but the political turmoil in Iran continues unabated behind the scenes. The authority of both the country's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and its president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, is being overtly challenged by religious and secular elites. Given the internal tumult and uncertainty, it looks increasingly doubtful that the regime will respond meaningfully to the Obama administration's deadline of late September to discuss curtailing its nuclear program or risk what Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has called "crippling sanctions."

In the past weeks, the regime has pressed ahead with its Stalinist mass show trial, a sickening spectacle in which prominent figures who protested the outcome of the disputed June 12 presidential election are undergoing a ritualized humiliation that has further embittered the opposition. Reading what for all the world looks like coerced confessions, some of the defendants, accused of conspiring with Western powers to foment a "soft revolution," may face execution. Hard-liners allied with Mr. Ahmadinejad, furious at allegations that protesters were not only beaten but raped in prison after the elections, are calling for the arrest of the main opposition presidential candidate, Mir Hossein Mousavi. And prosecutors moved this week to shutter the country's two main reform parties. So much for Iran's claims to pluralism and democracy.

At the same time, the revolutionary leadership is facing intensified opposition. As reported by The New York Times, a group of clerics has challenged the standing of Mr. Khamenei—an event that would have been unthinkable a few months ago—by issuing an anonymous letter calling him a dictator and insisting that he be ousted. The country's senior judicial official named a bitter critic of Mr. Ahmadinejad to the powerful position of prosecutor general. Mr. Ahmadinejad, for his part, nominated a list of loyalists to fill ministerial posts in his government, defying key parliamentary leaders who had insisted that competent professionals anchor the cabinet.

If all that raises the question of who in the Iranian government would be worth negotiating with, those doubts were reinforced the other day by the now-you-see-it, now-you-don't remarks of Iran's ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Ali Asghar Soltanieh. After state television reported that Mr. Soltanieh declared Iran ready "to take part in any negotiations with the West based on mutual respect," the ambassador announced a few hours later that he had told state TV no such thing. The flip-flop may have been just confusion, or it may have been a symptom of a key official serving more than one master in Tehran. Either way, it underscores the challenge for Washington in engaging with a regime of questionable legitimacy, dubious lines of authority and an uncertain grip on power.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Our green mothers

By PETULA DVORAK
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—The party had reached that point in the evening when the guys were doing their guy thing, and a few women ended up on sitting on the couches, forgotten like single socks at the Laundromat.

Three of us—a Czech American writer, a Korean American lawyer and a Libyan American doctor—groped for common topics of conversation. I can't remember how we got there, but we seized upon the weird things our mothers do.

We are all children of immigrants, born to parents from vastly disparate parts of the globe. And yet all of our mothers, with their thick accents, ugly shoes and constant clucking at the state of our lives, are irritatingly fashionable for the exact same reason: They are, by today's standards, considered "green."

"Bags of bags. Oh my God—everywhere, tucked in the closets, the drawers. Plastic bags filled with plastic bags. She could never throw a bag away," said Basma Faris, the doctor.

My mother, who's 63, does bags of bags. When I was growing up, she also crocheted sacks from string and brought them to grocery stores. I nearly died each time she asked for a discount for bringing her own bag.

These crocheted bags and many other hip versions of recyclable sacks are now for sale all over the place.

"And how about the refrigerator?" demanded Won Rha, the lawyer. "I go over to her house now and open it and say, 'OK, here's the butter.' Only it's never butter. Nothing is in the container that it's supposed to be in. She reuses everything. Yogurt cups, butter containers, jam jars."

This is the case at my mother's home, too. It takes about 15 minutes to organize a snack in her kitchen. I open mayonnaise jars to find the sugar, peanut butter jars for the coffee and the cottage cheese container for the leftover dumplings, natch.

When Rha had her first child and her mother moved in to help her during the first few weeks, Mom took over the kitchen. She served home-cooked meals on the Styrofoam trays that meat slabs are sold on.

"I'm like, 'Mom, we have plates. You can use those plates,' " Rha said.

My mom, who arrived in America in 1968 after years of postwar Eastern European economic deprivation, also loves the meat trays. She distributes her delicate, meticulously decorated Czech Christmas cookies on the very trays where pork butt once bled.

For all of us, these retreads were a staple in our school lunches. No Wonder Woman lunchboxes for us. We carried our midday meals in various reusable bags from around the house and stored our food in the plastic containers everyone else threw away, so it looked as though we were constantly eating volumes of sour cream for lunch.

Now we go to our friends' houses, and they're all doing it, too, the recycling thing. These are the people who grew up with stacks of beautiful Tupperware containers in their American-born mothers' avocado green fridges.

One of my new acquaintances said she was incredulous when professionals at a recent dinner party in New York proudly served their pinot noir in recycled jam jars.

When I went through my Crate and Barrel nesting phase after my husband and I bought our first home, I sneered at the cacophony of my mother's kitchen and loved my matching containers, stacked high in my arctic white fridge like a picture from a catalog.

"Why do you need to buy containers for $19.99 when you get perfectly good ones for free with all your food? Why don't you just burn your money, too?" my mother asked. "It's good for the environment to use all these things again. What about our poor Mother Earth?"

"It's called cheap, Mom," I snapped back.

A few months later, once we were talking again, she was with us on the Mall for a picnic. I lost track of her while chasing my sons, and once I found her, she was standing in front of a video camera and a boom mic, being interviewed by two journalists.

Oh, no.

I raced over to save her dignity (and mine).

"I am living green for years. I use all my containers over and over. I wash all plastic bags. The bags you don't use for dog poop, you use for your lunch," she told the student journalists doing a documentary on green living.

I began to pull my mom away, thanking them for their time and apologizing for her.

"No way. Your mom is sooooo wise," the one wearing really low-cut jeans said. "She is totally green. It's so cool."

Cool? Yeah—I bet this woman would have gotten the Shaun Cassidy lunchbox and would have snickered at my gizzard tub.

So now I endure a nationwide movement to legislate what my mother has been doing her whole life. Even I've begun to see the wisdom in her thrift. But please, let's leave it at that for now. I don't want to see any laws mandating sensible shoes.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Driving in fear

Last night I had to pick up my wife at the airport; she was arriving at 1:40am from Nagoya. I had to drive from Capital Hill and normally the drive is a non-event. But last night it was raining cats and dogs and it made this normally easy drive an experience from hell. Let me tell you why.

I have written several times about the lack of concern by government for the road safety of our citizens. The following is a list of items that fall short of compliance with most road safety standards. Lives are being put at risk because the government does not seem to care! It does not cost much for road maintenance like paint, light bulbs, re-surfacing, and road signs. The items listed below were all observed on this one trip to the airport:

1) Many places on the roads have no center lines, which are important to keep cars on the right side of the road.

2) Most places have no edge lines, so it is easy to run off the road.

3) The roads are not drained well so standing water is often on the road and these are hard to see at night, especially in the rain.

4) More than half the street (road) lights were not working! For some reason, many of the lights that were on turned off as I approached them.

5) Intersections were not lit and also not marked with turning lanes or directional information.

6) At the airport, the corner turning into the terminal was dark and not clearly marked.

7) The parking areas at the passenger arrival area were poorly lit, making it difficult to see people standing in the road.

8) The road surface on hills was slick and wash boarded, making control of the car difficult.

9) No warning signs were beside the road for curves, hills, slick surfaces, passing zones, etc.

10) Water running across the road washed sand and rocks onto the road.

What must we do to improve the safety of our roads? The government must raise the priority for road maintenance and safety management! I know the standard answer is "we have no money", but that is pure BS. There is money but we must change our priorities toward supporting public safety!

Perhaps we should raise the tax on gasoline. Currently we pay $0.15 per gallon, the lowest gas tax in the U.S. This tax raises about $3 million a year for the CNMI. When the government says they have no money, they should determine how much money is needed to make our roads safe and then raise the money through new gas taxes. I know that taxes are not popular, but how much is a life worth? Last night I was afraid that I might have an accident because of the poor road conditions. Why must we drive in fear?

Frank Stewart
Capital Hill, Saipan

Federalization here, there, and everywhere

Federalization here, federalization there, federalization everywhere because it is becoming a reality in the CNMI. It seems that wage and immigration is just the beginning and there is no one to blame but us. Kudos to the group that is finally taking the Retirement Fund to court to protect it from our own government. Everyone knows the Fund was literally robbed by the government, with no plan or intention to pay the money back. We may actually see another form of federalization at the Retirement Fund for our own good. Economist Bill Stewart, myself and many others in the community warned about the ongoing robberies at the Fund *years* ago when the debt was approaching $100 million but as usual the powers-that-be pretended not to hear us and now its over $200 million.

I was so glad to see some of our citizens place a real check on our government and hold our government accountable for the funds. The average retiree can't afford to take the government to court and it is really up to the elite who get the *big* retirement checks to help their fellow citizens. Kudos to you! Their efforts to get a federal receiver to take over the Fund also demonstrates the power of citizens to place a check on government when we work together and become one people in one direction for holding the government accountable. The same is true with all aspects of governing and we must do more to hold our government accountable in the future.

This group has given new hope to saving the Retirement Fund and I am praying for them to be successful and I'm sure I'm not alone. "Enough is enough" as the saying goes and certainly no one can disagree with the fact that we must get the Retirement Fund away from the influence of our local government. But it doesn't stop with the Fund because right around the corner is Article 12 and if we haven't learned to fix Article 12 from our experience with wages, immigration, and now the Retirement Fund, then we will see federalization again on landownership. Federalization here, federalization there, federalization everywhere if the CNMI doesn't wake up and truly take responsibility, be accountable and control our destiny. Otherwise, the feds will do it for us.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Are you ready for change?

We all want the same things. We want to provide sufficiently for our family and provide a greater opportunity for our kids. We want to live in a community that allows us to lead a safe, healthy and prosperous life. We want a government that is fair and efficient in delivering programs and services. We want to live in a community where we feel valued and cared for. For so long now, we've talked about change and I've also come to the realization that we all want it. The problem is we expect that the people we elect will bring about good change and rightfully so.

But if we really want change, it should start from within. Politics is not any different. Every political season we are given options to decide the kind of leadership that will bring about positive change to our community. Our problem is that we don't hold ourselves personally accountable for the type of leadership that we elect. We've been playing the blame game for so long. We tell ourselves that we don't have a choice because we feel obligated to vote for the person who employs us and puts food on the table. We tell ourselves that we don't have a choice because they're family! We tell ourselves that we don't have a choice because we must swap our vote for the Philippine trips, rosary donations, party donations, and countless other freebies being passed out as part of being with the party (patida.) We tell ourselves that it doesn't matter anyway because ultimately no matter who we vote into office, it's only four years! Well, keep telling yourself that!

We've come so far but yet we are still far off from where we need to be in our personal lives and in our politics. When you look at your kids, can you honestly say to them that this is the best quality of life that you can offer to them? Ask yourself, where do you see our community headed in the next four years? What kinds of opportunities do you want for your family? Ask yourself, will this government provide the opportunity to help you help yourself. Ask yourself, *are you ready for change*? *Si yuus maase ni tiempon miyu.*

Juanis King Jr.
Marpo Heights II, Tinian

Earth to Jack

First of all, I do not represent Diamond Water Company or any other water company in any way. In response to you "clean water" article in the *Saipan Tribune* dated Aug. 28, 2009, I am itching to respond and give my 2 cents worth.

All water companies practice the most cost-effective and safest way to repair their bottles. Water companies rarely break their own bottles but 99 percent of the time they receive damaged ones by getting it from a regular or new customer. Sometimes, a new customer would buy water and surrender a cracked one, sometimes on purpose to get a better one. A store clerk or deliveryman won't notice it because they don't have the time to examine it.

If you are wondering how much a new 5-gallon water bottle costs, it costs nearly $10. If Diamond Water was to purchase new bottles for the sake of you concern, do you think they can afford it? Do you think other water companies, especially water giant Saipan Ice can afford it? If I was to sell 1,000 bottles of water in a day and receive back 999 empty broken ones and purchase new ones, then believe me I am out of business the very first day.

I think the chances of getting poisoned by a patched-up water bottle is slim to none. It's no different if you were to drink juice from a Styrofoam cup or eat fritada on a Styrofoam plate every now and then (U.S. health officials do not recommend using Styrofoam as food paraphernalia). This patchwork concern of yours is a 20-year-old concern. It's been around for years. Why now?

In closing, I think it's time for you to get a water purifier and install it yourself or buy yourself a couple of 5-gallon bottles at $8-$10 each and refill them at your nearest mom and pop store. If that doesn't work, then quench you thirst from the drum can out back. Thanks for you time.

Vince G. Cabrera
Chalan Piao, Saipan

Vergara, green cards, and terrorism

Truthfully, what the heck is Jaime Vergara writing about? I've learned to skim over the self-congratulatory parts and to avoid the convoluted narratives. But his column in the *Saipan Tribune* dated Aug. 26, 2009, demands a response.

To begin with, I find offensive Jaime's remarks that the Department of Homeland Security is "shortsighted" in barring Chinese and Russian tourists from visiting the Marianas, and also that the DHS "is inefficient and lacking in self-confidence." Really? I'd like to hear from Jaime specifically what experience he has in national defense, terrorism, counterintelligence, the workings of the DOD or if he ever wore a U.S. military uniform—that's if they'd take him.

After two jumbo jets demolished the Twin Towers, another crashed into the Pentagon and a fourth plowed a field in Pennsylvania on Sept. 11, 2001, the Department of Homeland Security was created a year later out of necessity: to stand vigilant and prepared to respond to any threat of mass-casualty acts against America.

How do all these affect the people on Guam, Tinian and Saipan while the $16 billion military buildup is ongoing in the Marianas? By doing what they're doing, it is better for Homeland Security to err on the side of caution than to mop up the deaths after another 9/11. If a secret radical Muslim faction is not already planted here, it is better to prevent infiltration of potential terrorists and spies before they arrive on the islands.

So far, we have been safe from any major attack on American soil for almost a decade. But terrorism is very real and very unpredictable; who knows what tomorrow might bring. If the DHS is, as Jaime declares, "shortsighted" and "inefficient and lacking in self-confidence" poor Jaime might be pushing up some daisies right now.

So, Jaime, just what part of "America is at war" don't you comprehend? Here's my theory: your deep-seated disrespect for this adopted country of yours, the United States of America. You should be so lucky, Jaime, that our country has provided you with a good living, protected your fanny and granted you inalienable rights and freedoms you now flaunt. Going back to the Philippines, Canada or wherever your imagination takes you? Highly unlikely.

Jaime, you remember the communist-inspired Hukbalahap? Some 50 odd years ago, you and family escaped the wrath of these terrorists as they ravaged the Philippine countryside primarily against the landlord elite in Luzon while fighting U.S. combat troops. So you got out of town just in time, Jaime, cursing under your breath, anyplace is better than here? Whew, was that a close call or what? If the People's Liberation Army Huks had gotten to you then, I wouldn't be writing about you now.

In denial, Jaime? That's a good reason as any why you fantasize that America is not at war with terrorists sworn to annihilate us. In your brain the U.S. was not attacked on Sept. 11, 2001 and well over 6,000 Americans slaughtered. And you close your eyes to the fact that a thousand miles west of us three nuclear-armed communist regimes are seeking any excuse to infiltrate American soil or use their weapons of destruction. And who is to deny there are not terrorists 1,500 miles to the west in your own country and southeast Asia itching to get here—as a guest worker, by marriage or any other means possible?

It is my personal opinion Jaime's deep-seated guilt is a testament to his own country's ineptness in the never-ending fight to oust the Abu Sayyaf, Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Jamaah Islamiyah and who knows the countless other terrorist groups that proliferate there. Who in their right would want to go back? No wonder, under this color of self-guilt, Jaime condemns America as well as other people he disagrees with.

Now let's talk about sham marriages, Jaime, you know, those "combative defendants" you wrote about, those candle-carrying, tear-jerking, mass-singing aliens who (like you did) want a green card for free? Here's one example you're more than aware of but ashamed to write about in your columns: many of them already have wives and husbands back in their home country, yet made U.S. born babies here and now cry what will happen to their happy home and kids left behind when they're forced to return? Get real, Jaime, tell those adulterers to take their babies with them!

You fully support these fakers, as you've so often intimated in columns, while aiding and abetting others you've so proudly written about. Is that not a federal offense punishable by jail time? Jaime, you've proved cunning enough to slip past the U.S. Immigration system and find work in Dallas, Texas in the 1960s. But equally as slick, how did you score a green card in the 1970s?

So, Jaime, why do real Americans appreciate the Department of Homeland Security? If you didn't get it the first time around, read again all of the above.

Lee Andersen
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Palau	Showers	▲88	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲90	▼77
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼77

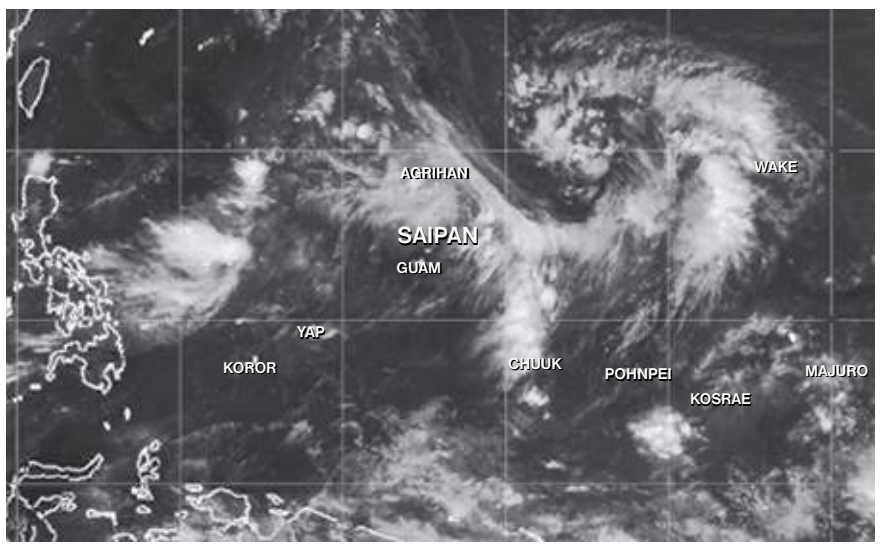
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲60	▼48
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼61
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲91	▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼76
London	Showers	▲73	▼54
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼66
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲61	▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91	▼78
New York	Partly Sunny	▲75	▼59
Osaka	Cloudy	▲78	▼67
Paris	Rainy	▲69	▼52
Pusan	Sunny	▲76	▼65
Rome	Sunny	▲87	▼64
Salem	Sunny	▲83	▼53
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲69	▼56
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼57
Tokyo	Rain	▲82	▼72
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲76	▼59

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:23 AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:53 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
6:56 PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The monsoon trough extends eastward from Luzon through a broad circulation centered northwest of the Marianas near 17N137E then eastward through another circulation centered well north of Pohnpei near 16N156E then southeastward to end at 7N170E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms can be found well west of the Marianas within an area bounded by a line from 20N135E to 15N130E to 11N130E back to 20N135E and over parts of the Mariana Islands within 125 miles of a line from 21N140E to 13N151E. An upper level low centered near 18N155E is interacting with the surface low centered at 16N156E to generate scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just west of Wake Island within an area bounded by a line from 23N150E to 13N163E to 23N167E back to 23N150E. Westerly low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms well southeast of Yap between the equator and 3N from 145E to 147E and south of Pohnpei between the equator and 4N from 159E to 162E. The remnants of tropical depression 02C are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 50 miles of 15N173E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Majuro within 125 miles of a line from EQ172E to 5N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:29 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:26 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:11 PM	2:59 AM
Wednesday	4:51 PM	3:49 AM
Thursday	5:28 PM	4:38 AM
Friday	6:04 PM	5:26 AM
Saturday	6:39 PM	6:14 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941	5:30am	8:05am	Daily
NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily
C0943	5:25pm	8:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

C0942	9:25am	1:55pm	Daily
NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
C0944	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ716/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Island Snapshots

RAFFLE WINNER CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Amie McRoberts is the winner of the "Budweiser GO-GO! Scooter Sweepstakes" sponsored by Marianas Pacific Distributors, Inc. She is shown here with the PGO Scooter she won by purchasing a 12-pack Bud Family at Joeten Dandan.

NATURE HIKE

A boy climbs the concrete stairs at the picturesque Bird Island Lookout in Marpi on Saturday. The Bird Island, a marine protected area, is a small stone islet standing on coral reef and has become one of the Northern Marianas' most enduring landmarks.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

DIVE SITES DVD

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, second from left, receives a copy of the scuba diving DVD *Underwater Treasures of the Northern Mariana Islands* on Aug. 20 from Takahiro Naguchi of Underwater Adventures, LLC, left, and Toshi Yamaguchi of Marine Sports Club, second from left. Noguchi donated the rights of the DVD to MVA for promotion of the islands. With colorful videography, the DVD highlights numerous dive sites on Saipan and Tinian and the sea life found there. Scenes from Rota's dive spots will soon be added. Also pictured is MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman, right.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BACK TO SCHOOL

Students fill the hallways of the Northern Marianas College during the first week of the Fall 2009 semester. NMC enrolled over 980 students, an increase of nearly 25 percent since Fall 2008. The increase is attributed to the recent reaffirmation of college's accreditation and its efforts to reach out to potential students with events such as the Start Smart Senior Seminar, the Cash for College workshop, and various recruitment visits.

NMC

The water balloon toss was a hit during the back-to-school summer bash at Palms Resort Saipan last Saturday.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Kids join one of the games in last Saturday's back-to-school summer bash at the Isa Bar poolside of Palms Resort Saipan.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

GIOVANNI'S TURNS 14

The staff of Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant pose for the *Saipan Tribune* just before the lighting of the fireworks on the cake that celebrated the restaurant's 14th birthday on Friday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

SUMMER BASH

Youngsters line up for the water balloon toss in Saturday's back-to-school summer bash at the Palms Resort Saipan. The whole-day event attracted over 500 guests comprising families, friends, and lots of children.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

The Isa Bar poolside of Palms Resort Saipan springs to life during last Saturday's back-to-school summer bash.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Business

Obama health reform turns spotlight on Canada

TORONTO (AP)—From screaming babies to frail seniors, Canadian-born or recent immigrants, the patients flow continuously through the waiting room of Dr. Kamini Kambli's clinic. Most have made their appointments that day. None will receive a bill.

The receptionist swipes their ID to verify their eligibility as Ontario residents for coverage under Canada's universal health care system. Kambli's family medical practice will be reimbursed by the government.

Canada's system is called Medicare, and is much like Medicare in the U.S. for over-65 -year-olds, except that this one treats virtually the entire Canadian population of 33 million.

"It's one of the best systems in the world. Everyone is guaranteed health care and it does not matter if you're rich or poor or what your medical condition is—you will be seen and provided health care. How can you argue with that?" says Kambli, who used to practice medicine in her native India. To be sure, Canadians have their complaints about their health care system—about long waits for elective care, including appointments with specialists and selected surgical procedures; shortages of doctors and nurses, particularly in rural areas; and the growing costs of covering an aging population.

AP

Dr. Christopher Thompson, left, examines 81-year-old Albert Hammill at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, B.C.

The Canadian Medical Association wants to mix private insurance into the government monopoly. There have been lawsuits demanding the right to buy private health insurance. David Sebald, a Toronto-based health care consultant who has lived in the U.S., calls for a co-payment system to "eliminate the hypochondriacs."

But right now, Canadians are setting aside their criticisms of Medicare and rallying to its defense. The reason: Their system has been dragged into the debate over President Barack Obama's health care reform proposals by opponents who say Canada proves Obama is wrong—that Canadians endure long waits for critical procedures, medical rationing, scant resources and heavy-handed government interference.

A TV ad sponsored by the conservative Americans For Prosperity Foundation spotlighted a Canadian woman, Shona Holmes, who has challenged the system in court. She spoke of suffering from a brain tumor and declared she would "be dead" had she relied on her government. She said she had to mortgage her home to pay more than $97,000 to get timely treatment at the Mayo Clinic in Arizona.

In Canada, groups quickly sprouted up on Facebook accusing Holmes of betraying her country and exaggerating her illness.

Investors hunting for signs of economic growth

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—While investors go into the new week believing the economy is indeed emerging from recession, they still need to see more solid evidence of a rebound.

The foundation for a recovery is there: Consumers are growing more confident and the housing market keeps showing signs of improvement. The latest reading on the nation's gross domestic product showed the economy was shrinking at a slower-than-expected pace during the second quarter.

The market has also taken to heart Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's Aug. 21 assessment that the economy is on the verge of recovery.

But with an almost six-month rally leaving the Dow Jones industrials less than 500 points away from 10,000, analysts say it will now take, if not actual economic growth, then strong momentum toward that growth to extend Wall Street's gains. And this week's economic reports, including the first readings on employment and manufacturing during August, have the power to sustain or stifle stocks' advance.

"The market is at a point where if the news doesn't start becoming not just less bad, but become fairly positive, the market is going to start selling off," said Ben Halliburton, chief investment officer of Tradition Capital Management in Summit, N.J.

The most anxiously awaited piece of data his week is the government's employment report. Investors know it won't show signs of growth because job losses tend to continue even after a recovery has started. But they want to see more signs that employers are cutting fewer jobs. Economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters expect another 220,000 jobs were lost, down from 247,000 in July.

Any disappointments when Friday's report comes out, and investors' faith in the economy—and in the bets they've placed since early March—may be shaken.

Conversely, if data show a huge drop in job cuts, investors are likely to be buying.

"That's going to be a biggie. That could be a pivot point," said Maury Fertig, chief investment officer at Relative Value Partners in Northbrook, Ill.

Of course, the employment report is a concern because consumers who have lost their jobs or who fear being fired have curtailed their spending dramatically. Investors are worried that Americans won't relax enough to help the economy recover.

Fortune helped fuel Kennedy family legacy, agenda

BOSTON (AP)—Sen. Edward Kennedy's family fortune not only fueled his brothers' presidential campaigns and his eight terms in the U.S. Senate, it also helped drive the family's liberal legacy and forge Kennedy's lifelong crusade for universal health care.

Just how wealthy was Kennedy when he died Tuesday at the age of 77 after a yearlong battle with brain cancer?

Untangling a family fortune that reaches back to the early days of the past century is murky business, but the annual federal financial disclosure reports Kennedy was required to file provide at least a' partial glimpse into his personal capital.

As a U.S. senator, Kennedy earned a base salary of $165,200 a year, but that just skimmed the surface of his net worth.

On the most recent report in 2008, which includes his own assets and those of his wife and any dependents, Kennedy listed a string of publicly and non-publicly traded trusts and assets. Under the filing rules, Kennedy was only required to place the value of those assets within a range, rather than give an exact dollar amount.

The report placed the net worth of his publicly traded assets somewhere between a low of $15 million and high of $72.6 million.

Just a year earlier, Kennedy reported somewhat rosier totals that placed his publicly traded assets somewhere between a low of $46.9 million and a high of $157 million.

AP

Family members gather at the coffin of Sen. Edward Kennedy at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., Saturday, Aug. 29, 2009.

Kennedy has other sources of income, including $1,995,833 in royalties he received from Grand Central Publishing a division of Hachette Group Book, publishers of his memoir True Compass scheduled for release in mid-September. Part of the proceeds will go to charity, including the John F. Kennedy Library.

Separate from his personal wealth was Kennedy's federal campaign account. As of the end of June, Kennedy reported more than $4.5 million in the account.

The main source of Kennedy's wealth was his father and family patriarch Joseph P. Kennedy who amassed a fortune in banking, real estate, liquor, films and Wall Street holdings that eventually grew to an estimated $500 million by the 1980s.

A significant portion of that came from Joseph P. Kennedy's decision to buy Chicago's famed Merchandise Mart in 1945 for $12.5 million. Spanning two city blocks and rising 25 stories, the sprawling limestone and terra-cotta mart is so large it has its own zip code and only lost its title as the world's largest building after the Pentagon was built in the 1940s.

The elder Kennedy transformed it into a national center for the home furnishings and design industries.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

MGM Mirage takes brands abroad as franchisor

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Struggling with an economy that has gouged gambling profits and cut casino companies' ability to borrow, MGM Mirage hopes to keep expanding its international hotel and casino empire and fattening its profit—but have other companies foot the bill. Under 10 new deals, the largest owner and operator on the Las Vegas Strip will manage hotels abroad without spending on land or development, part of its overall effort to cut costs and risk. Several of the hotels will carry the names of the company's famous Bellagio and MGM Grand casinos in Las Vegas.

Study shows experimental drug cuts stroke risk

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—An experimental drug reduces the stroke risk in patients with irregular heartbeats by more than three times, compared with the popular drug warfarin—but possibly at a cost, according to new research released Sunday. Patients taking the new drug dabigatran etexilate, made by German pharmaceutical Boehringer Ingelheim, also were slightly more likely to have heart attacks or stomach pain, according to the research presented at the European Society of Cardiology meeting in Barcelona. Patients with irregular heartbeats are up to five times more likely to have a stroke than healthy people.

New AstraZeneca drug reduces heart patients' risks

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—A new drug to prevent blood clots in heart patients reduced their chances of dying by more than 20 percent compared with the standard treatment, new research says. Researchers followed 18,624 patients worldwide from 2006 to 2008. About half the patients were taking clopidogrel, also known as Plavix, while the other half were taking an experimental drug called ticagrelor, or Brilinta, made by AstraZeneca PLC. Those on Brilinta had a 4.5 percent chance of dying, versus a 5.9 percent death risk for patients on Plavix, the world's second-best selling medication made by France's Sanofi-Aventis SA and U.S. drugmaker Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.

Governors Highway Safety Assoc. backs texting ban

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—The national association representing state highway safety officials on Sunday threw its support behind a growing movement to ban text messaging by drivers, reversing its previous stand. The Governors Highway Safety Association had come out against new laws banning texting behind the wheel on the grounds that such legislation would prove impossible to enforce. "Highway safety laws are only effective if they can be enforced and if the public believes they will be ticketed for not complying," GHSA Chairman Vernon F. Betkey Jr. said in July.

Nation

Blackwater tapped foreigners on secret CIA program

WASHINGTON (AP)—When the CIA revived a plan to kill or capture terrorists in 2004, the agency turned to the well-connected security company then known as Blackwater USA.

With Blackwater's lucrative government security work and contacts arrayed in hot spots around the world, company officials offered the services of foreigners supposedly skilled at tracking terrorists in lawless regions and countries where the CIA had no working relationships with the government.

Blackwater told the CIA that it "could put people on the ground to provide the surveillance and support—all of the things you need to conduct an operation," a former senior CIA official familiar with the secret program told The Associated Press.

But the CIA's use of the private contractor as part of its now-abandoned plan to dispatch death squads skirted concerns now re-emerging with recent disclosures about Blackwater's role.

The former senior CIA official said he had doubts during his tenure about whether Blackwater's foreign recruits had mastered the necessary skills to pull off such a high-stakes operation. Blackwater's later hiring of several senior CIA officials who were involved in or aware of the secret program, including one of the men who ran the operation, showed the blurred lines of using a private contractor for such a highly classified and dangerous project.

While Blackwater won the government's confidence by handling security and training operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the 2004 decision by CIA officials to entrust the North Carolina-based company with such a sensitive overseas operation struck some former agency officials as highly unusual.

"The question remains: Why do we need Blackwater?" said Charles Faddis, a former department chief at the CIA's Counterterrorism Center who retired in 2008 and was not involved in the secret program. "I remain mystified. This is quintessential CIA work. You wonder what it means that the CIA has to rely on Blackwater? Why are we still funding the CIA?"

The former senior CIA official who had knowledge of the program explained that "you wouldn't want to have American fingerprints on it."

The former official and several other current and former officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because the information remains classified.

Xe spokeswoman Stacy DeLuke did not respond to questions seeking comment. Blackwater altered its corporate name to Xe Services after a series of use-of-force controversies, including a September 2007 shooting in Baghdad by five company security guards that left 17 civilians dead.

Police: 8th person dead in Ga. mobile home attack

BRUNSWICK, Ga. (AP)—An eighth person died Sunday from grievous wounds suffered in an attack at a Georgia mobile home, with police acknowledging they didn't know if the killer was on the loose.

The latest casualty was one of two people hospitalized after they were discovered along with seven bodies in the same home Saturday morning in Brunswick, said Glynn County Police Chief Matt Doering. Nineteen-year-old Michael Toler lived in the home and is the first and only victim police have named.

Doering would not say how the eight were killed and would only say they ranged in age from teenagers to adults. A ninth victim was hospitalized Sunday in Savannah. Police are offering a $25,000 reward for information, with Doering saying, "We need help."

"The person or persons responsible for this still remain unknown to us," said Doering, who added the killer could have fled to another county or even another state. "I cannot tell you if they are at large. I simply do not know."

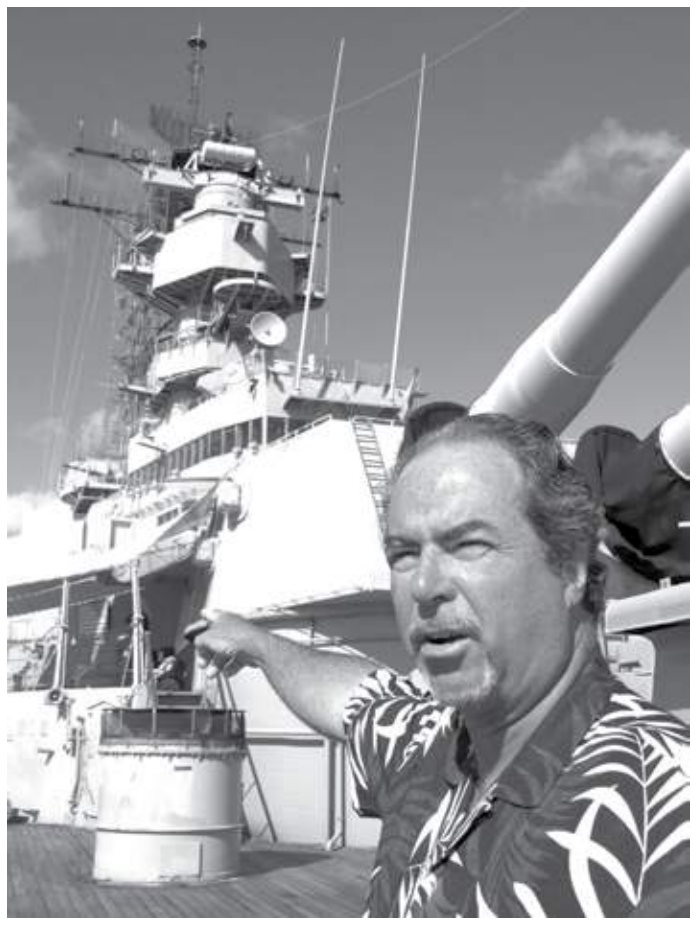
Police have arrested one man—a family member who lived in the mobile home and called 911 to report the attack, police said. Guy Heinze Jr., 22, faces charges of tampering with evidence, lying to police and illegal possession of prescription drugs and marijuana. He was jailed Sunday.

"He ... came home and discovered (the victims), at least that's what he told us," Doering said.

Asked if Heinze was involved in the slayings, Doering said: "I'm not going to rule him out, but I'm not going to characterize him as a suspect."

The killer was not among the dead or the last survivor, according to Doering.

Earlier, Doering said it the worst murder case ever in the county. Brunswick is a port city of about 16,000 people between Savannah and Jacksonville, Fla., along Georgia's east coast.



GOING INTO DRY DOCK AP

Michael Carr, president of the Battleship Missouri Memorial, speaks on the deck of the historic World War II vessel in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009. The now decommissioned ship, where Japan formally surrendered to end World War II in 1945, is scheduled to go into dry dock on Oct. 14 for repainting and other regular maintenance. The move will come shortly after the vessel on Wednesday hosts a ceremony marking the 64th anniversary of Japan's surrender. The 65-year-old ship is in good shape, but it still needs to go to Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard for repairs because rust is protruding from peeling paint in areas and the teak wood deck is warped and bent in others.

ACROSS THE NATION

3 Texas boaters missing for a week rescued at sea

PORT ARANSAS, Texas (AP)—Three Texas boaters missing for a week were reunited with their families early Sunday after they were found alive, sitting on top of their capsized catamaran 180 miles from land, the Coast Guard said. The crew of the *Affordable Fantasy* spotted the men Saturday night off Port Aransas and rescued them from their 23-foot catamaran, said Petty Officer 3rd Class Renee Aiello. A Coast Guard boat met them and brought them back to land, where emergency management services crews were waiting for them. They declined medical attention.

Backpacker, 70, unhurt after Tenn. mountain rescue

GATLINBURG, Tenn. (AP)—A 70-year-old backpacker who had been missing for several days in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park has been airlifted to safety and is reported in good shape. WBIR-TV in Knoxville says Albert "Morgan" Briggs was rescued Sunday from rugged terrain atop Porter's Mountain. Tennessee Highway Patrol Lt. Lee Chaffin says Briggs was in good spirits and was unhurt. The television station says Briggs declined medical attention and left with relatives.

Firefighters battle blaze near small Utah town

NEW HARMONY, Utah (AP)—About 275 more homes were evacuated Sunday as a wildfire that already destroyed three houses and blackened more than 15 square miles continued to threaten this rural southwestern Utah town. The lightning-sparked Mill Flat fire had been burning in the Pine Valley Wilderness area for more than a month before it flared up over the weekend near the town of New Harmony. On Saturday, the fire burned three homes. About seven other "outbuildings" also burned and about 75 houses were evacuated, he said.

Military plane damaged while landing in Nevada

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. (AP)—The U.S. Air Force says a plane was damaged while landing at Nellis Air Force Base but none of the 32 crew members aboard was injured. The aircraft, an E-3 Sentry airborne warning and control system, was returning from a mission late Friday night when the problem occurred. The 32-person crew got out of the plane safely. Emergency responders extinguished a fire after the landing. An Air Force statement did not provide additional details. The Air Force plans an investigation.

Shuttle Discovery arrives at space station

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Space shuttle Discovery pulled up and docked at the international space station on Sunday night, delivering a full load of gear and science experiments. The linkup occurred as the spacecraft zoomed more than 200 miles above the Atlantic and ended a round-the-world chase of nearly two days. The astronauts cheered when the hatches swung open, and the two crews greeted each other with hugs and handshakes. A thruster failure made the rendezvous all the more challenging for shuttle commander Rick Sturckow.

Calif. police expand search in kidnapping case

ANTIOCH, Calif. (AP)—Armed with rakes, shovels and chain saws, about 20 officers on Sunday combed the backyard of a couple charged with kidnapping and raping Jaycee Lee Dugard and used cadaver dogs to search an adjoining property where neighbors say one of the suspects once served as a caretaker. Sheriff's deputies and prosecutors from two counties and officers from two city police departments were using the dogs, shovels and other tools to inspect the neighboring yard, which sits behind a off-white house with a chain link fence.

2 firefighters killed amid massive Calif. wildfire

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two firefighters were killed Sunday when their vehicle rolled down a mountain side amid the intense flames of a wildfire that threatened 12,000 suburban homes. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger urged those in the fire's path to get out as the blazes rained ash on cars as far away as downtown Los Angeles, spreading in all directions in dry conditions.

Firefighters fixed their attention on the blaze's fast-moving eastern side where flames lapped at the foot of the vital communications and astronomy center of Mounty Wilson, and on the northwestern front, where the two firefighters were killed on Mount Gleason near the city of Acton.

"We ask for your understanding, for your patience as we move through this difficult time, and please, prayers for the families of our two brothers that we lost," Los Angeles County Deputy Fire Chief Mike Bryant said through tears at a Sunday night press conference.

Bryant said the men's families have been notified. He did not release their identities or give a cause for the crash.

AP

A firefighter watches a backfire burn as the battle with a wildfire continues in Acton, Calif., Sunday, Aug. 30, 2009.

The blaze was only about 5 percent contained and had scorched 66 square miles in the Angeles National Forest. Mandatory evacuations were in effect for neighborhoods in Glendale, Pasadena and other cities and towns north of Los Angeles. Officials said air quality in parts of the foothills bordered on hazardous.

The fire, which broke out Wednesday afternoon, was the largest of many burning around California, including a new blaze in Placer County northeast of Sacramento that destroyed several homes and businesses.

The Southern California fire was expected during the night Sunday to reach the top of Mount Wilson, where 22 television stations, many radio stations and cell phone providers have their transmitters, said U.S. Forest Service Capt. Mike Dietrich.

Asia

Blast kills 16 Pakistan cadets, as NATO trucks are bombed

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Bombings targeted a Pakistani police station and set a NATO fuel convoy ablaze Sunday, killing 16 cadets in the northwest's Swat Valley and threatening the supply line to international forces in Afghanistan in a separate attack near the border.

The two blasts hours apart and hundreds of miles from each other came as Pakistani officials said the Taliban were ramping up strikes to avenge recent setbacks, including the loss of territory to the military and the death of their top leader in a CIA missile strike near the Afghan border.

Pakistan's military has in recent months intensified its fight against the al-Qaida-linked extremists, who threaten stability in the nuclear-armed nation and are suspected of helping plot attacks against U.S. and NATO troops across the border in Afghanistan.

At least 16 cadets died Sunday after a suicide bomber sneaked into the courtyard where they were training in Swat's main town of Mingora and detonated his explosives, local government official Atifur Rehman said. It was the deadliest attack since an army offensive ended Taliban rule there.

Investigators later sifted through the blackened wreckage in the courtyard littered with body parts, shredded uniforms and police berets.

Authorities were looking into reports the attacker may have donned a uniform and slipped into the station posing as one of the dozens of recruits, Deputy Inspector General Idrees Khan of the district police said.

Opposition scrambles to create transition team

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's newly empowered leader Yukio Hatoyama rushed Monday to select Cabinet ministers after his party trounced the ruling conservatives in elections, sending them out of power for only the second time in 54 years.

Hatoyama said in a victory speech late Sunday that he would focus on making a quick and smooth transition, and said his priority was choosing the nation's next finance minister.

Official results were still being counted, but exit polls by all major media said Hatoyama's Democratic Party of Japan had won more than 300 of the 480 seats in the lower house of parliament. That would easily be enough to ensure that he is installed as prime minister in a special session of parliament that is expected to be held in mid-September.

Prime Minister Taro Aso, conceding defeat, said he would step down as president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Although the vote gave the Democrats a landslide win, most voters were seen as venting dissatisfaction with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party more so than endorsing the policies of the opposition.

The Democrats will also face next year an election for the less powerful upper house of parliament. They have controlled that chamber with two smaller allies since 2007, but if they fail to deliver quickly on their promises the ruling party could resurge.

The task ahead for the Democrats is daunting.

Japan managed to climb out of a yearlong recession in the second quarter, but its economy remains weak.

NATIONAL HEROES DAY AP

Philippine World War II veterans take a break following a wreath-laying ceremony on National Heroes Day, Monday Aug. 31, 2009, in Taguig east of Manila, Philippines.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bomb wounds 2 soldiers near RP airport

JOLO, Philippines (AP)—Suspected al-Qaida-linked militants planted a bomb that exploded near an airport and an air force base Sunday in the southern Philippines, wounding two soldiers, officials said. Abu Sayyaf extremists most likely planted the bomb that exploded late Sunday on a narrow road in Jolo township, wounding the two troops who were riding a scooter to a mosque, regional military chief Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino said. The soldiers were taken to a hospital for treatment to shrapnel wounds.

Dalai Lama says Taiwan visit is not political

TAOYUAN, Taiwan (AP)—The Dalai Lama denied any political agenda as he began what he described as a "purely humanitarian" mission Sunday to comfort victims of Taiwan's worst storm, trying to calm fears that he would further anger China by verging into politics. The Dalai Lama, who clasped his hands and smiled as he greeted Buddhist followers and supporters at the Taoyuan International Airport near Taipei, said his visit would have no political overtone. "I've visited different parts of the world, and I may have a political agenda there ... (but) my visit here is purely for humanitarian concerns," he said.

Major fraud allegations double in Afghan election

KABUL (AP)—Major fraud complaints in the Afghan presidential election surged Sunday to nearly 700, raising concern that the volume of cases that must be investigated will delay announcement of a winner and formation of a new government. President Hamid Karzai is leading with 46.2 percent of votes from the Aug. 20 ballot, followed by ex-Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah with 31.4 percent, according to official figures from 35 percent of the polling stations. Karzai must win over half the votes to avoid a run-off.

Myanmar says 26 forces, 8 rebels killed at border

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—The Myanmar junta has ended a news blackout about clashes with ethnic rebels near the China border, saying three days of fighting killed 26 government forces and at least eight rebels. A government announcement read aloud on state-run TV news broadcasts said the fighting had ended. It showed still photographs of police corpses and Kokang people fleeing. The Sunday evening announcement said "the region has now regained peace."

World

American commander says US 'on the road out' of Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—The U.S. military is packing up to leave Iraq in what has been deemed the largest movement of manpower and equipment in modern military history—shipping out more than 1.5 million pieces of equipment from tanks to antennas along with a force the size of a small city.

The massive operation already under way a year ahead of the Aug. 31, 2010 deadline to remove all U.S. combat troops from Iraq shows the U.S. military has picked up the pace of a planned exit from Iraq that could cost billions.

The goal is to withdraw tens of thousands of troops and about 60 percent of equipment out of Iraq by the end of next March, Brig. Gen. Heidi Brown, a deputy commander charged with overseeing the withdrawal, told The Associated Press in one of the first detailed accounts of how the U.S. military plans to leave Iraq.

Convoys carrying everything from armored trucks to radios have been rolling near daily through southern Iraq to Kuwait and the western desert to Jordan since President Barack Obama announced the deadline to remove combat troops, leaving up to 50,000 troops under a U.S.-Iraqi security agreement until the end of 2011.

First out, Brown said, will be the early withdrawal of an Army combat brigade of about 5,000. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has said a brigade would leave by the end of the year, months ahead of schedule, if violence in Iraq did not escalate beyond current levels.

Former Israeli PM Olmert indicted

JERUSALEM (AP)—Former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was indicted on corruption charges Sunday, becoming the first Israeli premier to go on trial and highlighting a series of cases that have shaken the public's faith in the political system.

The charges likely end the three-decade career of a man who just three years ago seemed poised to lead his nation to a bold withdrawal from the West Bank and an aggressive push for peace with the Palestinians.

Olmert, who was forced to step down because of the case, was accused of illegally accepting funds from an American backer, double-billing for official trips abroad and pocketing the difference, concealing funds from a government watchdog and cronyism. All of the alleged crimes took place before Olmert was elected prime minister in 2006.

Olmert, 63, issued a statement professing his innocence. "Olmert is convinced that in court he will be able to prove his innocence once and for all," said a spokesman, Amir Dan.

The formal charges in the indictment include fraud and breach of trust. The Justice Ministry did not say when the trial would begin or what penalties Olmert could face. But Moshe Negbi, a leading legal commentator, said the fraud charge alone could carry a prison term of up to five years.

Climate trouble may be bubbling up

MACKENZIE RIVER DELTA, Northwest Territories (AP)—Only a squawk from a sandhill crane broke the Arctic silence—and a low gurgle of bubbles, a watery whisper of trouble repeated in countless spots around the polar world.

"On a calm day, you can see 20 or more 'seeps' out across this lake," said Canadian researcher Rob Bowen, sidling his small rubber boat up beside one of them. A tossed match would have set it ablaze.

"It's essentially pure methane."

Pure methane, gas bubbling up from underwater vents, escaping into northern skies, adds to the global-warming gases accumulating in the atmosphere. And pure methane escaping in the massive amounts known to be locked in the Arctic permafrost and seabed would spell a climate catastrophe.

Is such an unlocking under way?

Researchers say air temperatures here in northwest Canada, in Siberia and elsewhere in the Arctic have risen more than 2.5 C (4.5 F) since 1970—much faster than the global average. The summer thaw is reaching deeper into frozen soil, at a rate of 4 centimeters (1.5 inches) a year, and a further 7 C (13 F) temperature rise is possible this century, says the authoritative, U.N.-sponsored Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

In 2007, air monitors detected a rise in methane concentrations in the atmosphere, apparently from far northern sources. Russian researchers in Siberia expressed alarm, warning of a potential surge in the powerful greenhouse gas, additional warming of several degrees, and unpredictable consequences for Earth's climate.

Others say massive seeps of methane might take centuries. But the Russian scenario is disturbing enough to have led six U.S. national laboratories last year to launch a joint investigation of rapid methane release. And IPCC Chairman Rajendra Pachauri in July asked his scientific network to focus on "abrupt, irreversible climate change" from thawing permafrost.

WORLD BRIEFS

Category 4 hurricane threatens Mexico's west coast

PUERTO VALLARTA, Mexico (AP)—Jimena strengthened into a dangerous Category 4 hurricane off Mexico's Pacific coast Sunday, and forecasters said it could hit the Baja California peninsula as a major storm in the coming days. Jimena kicked up surf along the northwestern coast and generated strong winds that bent trees in the resort town of Zihuatanejo, uprooting at least one. Strong waves and wind prevented a couple on a boat from reaching port, forcing them to spend the night at sea, said Zihuatanejo coast guard official Jose Angel Lara.

Colombian president comes down with the swine flu

BOGOTA (AP)—President Alvaro Uribe has the swine flu and officials are contacting other South American governments whose leaders attended a summit last week with the Colombian leader, authorities said Sunday. The 57-year-old Uribe began feeling symptoms Friday, the same day as a meeting of South American presidents in Bariloche, Argentina, and he was confirmed to have swine flu after returning home, Social Protection Minister Diego Palacio said. "This isn't something that has us scared," Palacio said at a news conference.

Overdrive

2010 FORD TAURUS LIMITED

Remade sedan bespeaks excellence

By WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

THE WASHINGTON POST

The 2010 Ford Taurus gets excellent marks on ride, acceleration and handling.

It is midnight in the midst of what, for me, is an unnerving ritual:

Heavy trucks nesting alongside Interstate 81 shift into drive. One by one, they enter the road shoving large volumes of air with their massive bodies, flinging gravel and rocks from whining tires.

The trucks carry goods that feed our economy. It would be hard living without them. But living with them on a midnight highway is scary when all I'm trying to do is get home.

It helps in such moments to be behind the wheel of a car you believe in, one that feels solid, safe, comfortable and substantially more than competent. That means it's also fast—get-out-of-the-way fast, the kind of fast more designed to avoid collisions than it is to win races, a kind of strategic acceleration bountifully available in the 2010 Ford Taurus Limited.

Late-night, long-distance driving is a matter of triage. If you're on a highway bordered by reasonably located service stations, you don't worry so much about running out of fuel. Instead, your main concerns become power and agility.

Can the car move when called upon to do so? Can it dodge that flying piece of poorly re-treaded tire thrown from an 18-wheeler?

The new Taurus answered those questions in the affirmative—and did so repeatedly on a long drive through Virginia. It is a car much different from the Taurus introduced in 1986.

The new model is full-size and boxy versus the original, jelly-bean-shaped car's midsize proportions; and the 2010 version is far more accomplished in terms of overall performance and presentation than the 2009 model it replaces.

That's saying something. The Taurus born in 1986 set precedents for automobile design, primarily for family sedans, throughout the 1990s. But its imitators soon became its superiors and left it in the dust.

Ford's first response to the Taurus brand's loss of status was to kill the brand altogether, beginning with the 2007 model year. But that decision was reversed shortly after the arrival of Ford's current president and chief executive, Alan Mulally.

Mulally argued that the only thing wrong with the brand was what Ford had done to the Taurus, which essentially was to neglect its further technical and performance development in favor of cheap cosmetic spiffs.

Under Mulally's tutelage, Ford polished up a so-so, full-size Ford Five Hundred sedan and reintroduced it as the 2009 Taurus, with promises of better Taurus automobiles to come. The 2010 Taurus fulfills that promise. It is a premium car minus pretense—and absent premium price in all versions except the top-of-the-line Taurus SHO (Super High Output).

Buyers who choose the popularly equipped Taurus Limited model driven for this column will be able to live with that. With a base price below $34,000, the Ford sedan offers almost as much power, and just as much comfort and safety, as the Audi 3.0 A6 Quattro for $16,000 less.

Purists and devotees of automobile-buff books might scoff at that. The 3.0 Audi A6 Quattro delivers a maximum 300 horsepower compared with the 263 horsepower offered by the Taurus Limited. But at the end of a long highway dance in which the Ford nimbly and swiftly moved around those big trucks, that 37-horsepower difference hardly seemed to matter.

I got home safely and drove with perfect confidence, comfort and safety—doing it all in an appealingly well-made, attractively priced (in comparison with competitors) automobile.

Mileage was not great at a combined 20 miles per gallon (17 miles per gallon city/25 mpg highway). But it was competitive (a combined 21 mpg for the Audi 3.0 A6 Quattro, for example). It helped that the Ford drank regular unleaded fuel, instead of the premium stuff demanded by the Audi.

NUTS & BOLTS

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

THE BOTTOM LINE
Ford's Taurus is once again a contender in the market for large, premium family sedans.

COMPLAINT
Optional push-button controls on the Taurus sedan's center console can start the engine or release the trunk lid. They are identical in shape and color. Several drivers of the test car (I'm guilty) more than once opened the trunk when intending to start the engine.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
It gets excellent marks in all three.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
Classy, conservative, but with a hint of sass.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The 2010 Ford Taurus is a full-size, front-engine family sedan available with front-wheel-drive or all-wheel-drive and sold in four basic iterations—SE, SEL, Limited and top-of-the-line SHO.

ENGINES/TRANSMISSION
The standard 3.5-liter, 24-valve, V-6 engine develops 263 horsepower at 6,250 rpm and 249 foot-pounds of torque at 4,500 rpm. It is linked to a six-speed transmission that can be shifted automatically or manually. The SHO gets a twin-turbocharged version of that engine that develops 365 hp and 350 ft-lbs of torque.

CAPACITIES:
There are seats for five people. Luggage capacity is a generous 20.1 cubic feet. Fuel capacity is 19 gallons of recommended regular unleaded.

MILEAGE
You get 17 miles per gallon city, 25 mpg highway. All-wheel-drive usually consumes more fuel than two-wheel-drive.

TECHNICAL HIGHLIGHTS
All of that flying truck gravel and hardly a bit of chipped paint! The specially engineered anti-chip paint on the new Taurus seems to work.

SAFETY
Standard equipment includes four-wheel disc brakes, antilock brakes; electronic stability and traction control; and side and head air bags.

PRICE
The base price on the 2010 Ford Taurus Limited with all-wheel-drive is $33,020. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $30,308. Price as tested is $38,935, including $5,090 in options and an $825 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $35,562. There is a $1,000 consumer's rebate. Prices sourced from Ford, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

Aston Martin DBS Volante: A beautiful idea

By DAN NEIL
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

I understand the Aston Martin DBS Volante is not for everybody. Not everyone will care for a $300,000, 12-cylinder, open-top super car that looks like love feels and sounds like whiskey tastes.

But if you are one of these people—these nugatory finger-waggers, these buzz-killing harpies of righteous socialism—please, sit next to someone else at dinner. I will stick a fork in your eye.

Yes, of course it's a car for rich jackasses, preening showoffs and enviro-criminals. Really, what part of Aston Martin don't you understand?

But here's the thing: Aston will build only about 500 of these cars a year for the whole wide world; that's about 1 DBS Volante for every 400,000 square miles of dry land on Earth. These cars will, with rare exception, spend perpetuity in collectors' garages, venturing out only for the occasional weekend drive or jaunt to the polo field. Unless you live in Bel-Air or Abu Dhabi, your odds of seeing one in the flesh are slimmer than the chances a Nigerian oil minister will deposit millions into your bank account.

The DBS Volante is not, in other words, a real car, in the sense that it doesn't exist in the same Chevy-and-Honda world that you and I occupy. It's a legend, a myth, a beau ideal, a 510-hp unicorn of an automobile. You don't have to like it. You don't even have to believe in it. But you've got to concede the world is a more wonderful place for it.

I mean, just look at it.

The Volante is the convertible version of the DBS Coupe (James Bond's car in "Quantum of Solace," by the way), which is itself a high-performance version of the DB9. The DBS coupe gets 40 more horsepower than the DB9, as well as a thorough stiffening of the chassis and suspension. The Volante backs off a bit from the coupe's flinty, pure sports-car character. For one thing, the folding top mechanism adds about 200 pounds to the weight of the car. Also, the Volante is a 2-plus-2 car whereas 2-plus-2 seating is only an option with the coupe.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

The 2010 Aston Martin DBS Volante is a legend, a myth, a beau ideal with its 6.0-liter V-12 engine, 510 hp and 420 pound-feet of torque.

The lungs are the same—the DBS Coupe and the Volante use the same race-bred 6.0-liter V-12, with 510 hp and 420 pound-feet of torque. My test car was equipped with a six-speed, paddle-shifted ZF automatic transmission—not an automated manual, like the Ferrari California. The automatic works beautifully, but enthusiasts might miss the sharper edge of manual transmission.

Both cars have Aston's variable-length exhaust system. In the Volante, under acceleration, when the engine revs reach about 3,800 rpm, a bypass valve opens up and wild, feral decibels come pouring out, though not exactly a snarl. It's more refined, brighter, more metallic, richer and more musical.

The top mechanism itself is excellent. The acoustically matted canvas top retracts in a brief 14 seconds, more than quick enough to lower the top at a stoplight (the top will also operate up to speed of 30 mph). The deck tonneau integrates low humps for the roll bars that pop up if the car senses an incipient rollover "event"—and what an event that would be.

The interior is beautifully constructed and highly imperfect. For starters, the small LCD navigation panel that emerges out of the dash is dated and not all that user-friendly.

Also, the interior's piano-black wood reflects blinding sunlight into the driver's eyes, top up or down. Aston's audio and climate controls and LCD display are pathetic for this caliber of car. To the good, my test car was trimmed in gorgeous chocolate-brown leather hand-stitched with thick cord. Sensational.

How does the Volante drive? Exquisitely. Big, powerful, quick and seriously, three-digit fast. The steering is razor sharp. The carbon-ceramic brakes are freaking land anchors. There's serious grip everywhere. But the Volante is never less than utterly, magically refined.

If there's a complaint to be made it's that this stupefyingly expensive sports car never really boils one's blood. There's no warning, no address of adrenaline, no clue you're going too fast—until you hear the sirens wailing behind you.

Life & Style

Digging up the Saudi past: Some would rather not

AP

In this July 12, 2009 photo, a visitor looks at an exhibition at the Saudi National Museum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

AP

In this July 12, 2009 photo, a visitor takes a picture of the Thaj Treasure at an exhibit at the Saudi National Museum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Much of the world knows Petra, the ancient ruin in modern-day Jordan that is celebrated in poetry as "the rose-red city, 'half as old as time,'" and which provided the climactic backdrop for "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade."

But far fewer know Madain Saleh, a similarly spectacular treasure built by the same civilization, the Nabateans.

That's because it's in Saudi Arabia, where conservatives are deeply hostile to pagan, Jewish and Christian sites that predate the founding of Islam in the 7th century.

But now, in a quiet but notable change of course, the kingdom has opened up an archaeology boom by allowing Saudi and foreign archaeologists to explore cities and trade routes long lost in the desert.

AP

In this July 12, 2009 photo, a visitor looks to Bronze head and claw of lion from the 1st centry BC at an exhibit at the Saudi National Museum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The sensitivities run deep. Archaeologists are cautioned not to talk about pre-Islamic finds outside scholarly literature. Few ancient treasures are on display, and no Christian or Jewish relics. A 4th or 5th century church in eastern Saudi Arabia has been fenced off ever since its accidental discovery 20 years ago and its exact whereabouts kept secret.

In the eyes of conservatives, the land where Islam was founded and the Prophet Muhammad was born must remain purely Muslim. Saudi Arabia bans public displays of crosses and churches, and whenever non-Islamic artifacts are excavated, the news must be kept low-key lest hard-liners destroy the finds.

"They should be left in the ground," said Sheikh Mohammed al-Nujaimi, a well-known cleric, reflecting the views of many religious leaders. "Any ruins belonging to non-Muslims should not be touched. Leave them in place, the way they have been for thousands of years."

In an interview, he said Christians and Jews might claim discoveries of relics, and that Muslims would be angered if ancient symbols of other religions went on show. "How can crosses be displayed when Islam doesn't recognize that Christ was crucified?" said al-Nujaimi. "If we display them, it's as if we recognize the crucifixion."

In the past, Saudi authorities restricted foreign archaeologists to giving technical help to Saudi teams. Starting in 2000, they began a gradual process of easing up that culminated last year with American, European and Saudi teams launching significant excavations on sites that have long gone lightly explored, if at all.

At the same time, authorities are gradually trying to acquaint the Saudi public with the idea of exploring the past, in part to eventually develop tourism. After years of being closed off, 2,000-year-old Madain Saleh is Saudi Arabia's first UNESCO World Heritage Site and is open to tourists. State media now occasionally mention discoveries as well as the kingdom's little known antiquities museums.

"It's already a big change," said Christian Robin, a leading French archaeologist and a member of the College de France. He is working in the southwestern region of Najran, mentioned in the Bible by the name Raamah and once a center of Jewish and Christian kingdoms.

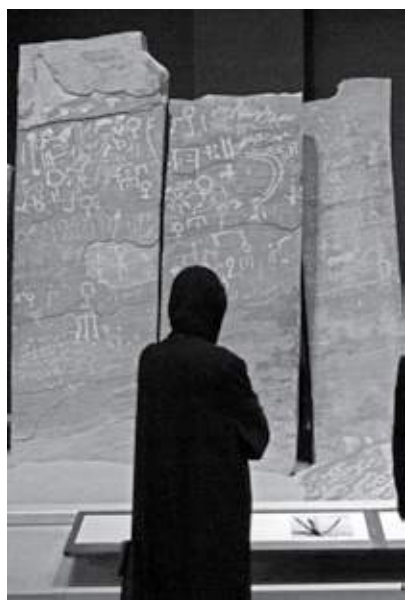
No Christian artifacts have been found in Najran, he said.

Spearheading the change is the royal family's Prince Sultan bin Salman, who was the first Saudi in space when he flew on the U.S. space shuttle Discovery in 1985. He is now secretary general of the governmental Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities.

Dhaifallah Altalhi, head of the commission's research center at the governmental Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities, said there are 4,000 recorded sites of different periods and types, and most of the excavations are on pre-Islamic sites.

"We treat all our sites equally," said Altalhi. "This is part of the history and culture of the country and must be protected and developed." He said archaeologists are free to explore and discuss their findings in academic venues.

Still, archaeologists are cautious. Several declined to comment to The Associated Press on their work in the kingdom.



AP

In this July 12, 2009 photo, a tourist looks at the "standing stones"—stone panels among the earliest know monuments in Arabia and were erected in the fourth millennium BC—at an exhibit at the Saudi National Museum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The Arabian Peninsula is rich, nearly untouched territory for archaeologists. In pre-Islamic times it was dotted with small kingdoms and crisscrossed by caravan routes to the Mediterranean. Ancient Arab peoples—Nabateans, Lihyans, Thamud—interacted with Assyrians and Babylonians, Romans and Greeks.

Much about them is unknown.

Najran, discovered in the 1950s, was invaded nearly a century before Muhammad's birth by Dhu Nawas, a ruler of the Himyar kingdom in neighboring Yemen. A convert to Judaism, he massacred Christian tribes, leaving triumphant inscriptions carved on boulders.

At nearby Jurash, a previously untouched site in the mountains overlooking the Red Sea, a team led by David Graf of the University of Miami is uncovering a city that dates at least to 500 B.C. The dig could fill out knowledge of the incense routes running through the area and the interactions of the region's kingdoms over a 1,000-year span.

And a French-Saudi expedition is doing the most extensive excavation in decades at Madain Saleh. The city, also known as al-Hijr, features more than 130 tombs carved into mountainsides. Some 450 miles from Petra, it is thought to mark the southern extent of the Nabatean kingdom.

In a significant 2000 find, Altalhi unearthed a Latin dedication of a restored city wall at Madain Saleh which honored the second century Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius.

So far, there has been no known friction with conservatives over the new excavations, in part because they are in the early stages, are not much discussed in Saudi Arabia, and haven't produced any announcements of overtly Christian or Jewish finds.

But the call to keep the land purged of other religions runs deep among many Saudis. Even though Madain Saleh site is open for tourism, many Saudis refuse to visit on religious grounds because the Quran says God destroyed it for its sins.

Excavations sometimes meet opposition from local residents who fear their region will become known as "Christian" or "Jewish." And Islam being an iconoclastic religion, hard-liners have been known to raze even ancient Islamic sites to ensure that they do not become objects of veneration.

Saudi museums display few non-Islamic artifacts.

Riyadh's National Museum shows small pre-Islamic statues, a golden mask and a large model of a pagan temple. In some display cases, female figurines are listed, but not present—likely a nod to the kingdom's ban on depictions of the female form.

A tiny exhibition at the King Saud University in Riyadh displays small nude statues of Hercules and Apollo in bronze, a startling sight in a country where nakedness in art is highly taboo.

In 1986, picnickers accidentally discovered an ancient church in the eastern region of Jubeil. Pictures of the simple stone building show crosses in the door frame.

It is fenced off—for its protection, authorities say—and archaeologists are barred from examining it.

Faisal al-Zamil, a Saudi businessman and amateur archaeologist, says he has visited the church several times.

He recalls offering a Saudi newspaper an article about the site and being turned down by an editor.

"He was shocked," al-Zamil said. "He said he could not publish the piece."

Vampires, werewolves, liars lead fall film cast

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood might be telling its own life story this fall, presenting a lineup of liars, phonies, smooth talkers, bloodsuckers and greedy old men.

Granted, there are heroes in the mix, including Robert Downey Jr. as the great detective in "Sherlock Holmes" and Morgan Freeman as Nelson Mandela in Clint Eastwood's post-apartheid drama "Invictus."

Beloved literature and storybook adventures come to the screen with Maurice Sendak's children's classic "Where the Wild Things Are," Disney's animated fairy tale "The Princess and the Frog" and "Lord of the Rings" filmmaker Peter Jackson's adaptation of modern favorite "The Lovely Bones."

And audiences will be reunited with absent friends, among them director James Cameron on the sci-fi epic "Avatar," his first narrative film since "Titanic," and Woody, Buzz Lightyear and their plaything pals as 3-D versions of "Toy Story" and "Toy Story 2" hit theaters.

Still, rascals, rogues, beasts and baddies abound. Vampires and werewolves form opposing cliques in the season's supernatural heavyweight, "The Twilight Saga: New Moon," with Kristen Stewart and Rob Pattinson back for the second chapter of Stephenie Meyer's vamp-schoolgirl romance. The vampire-werewolf feud makes for a nice exploration of our own psyches, said "New Moon" director Chris Weitz.

"I suppose they're the two most relatable human monsters that we can think of. They nicely encapsulate restraint and passion," Weitz said. "Vampires are cold-blooded, literally, and werewolves are hot-blooded."

Downey and director Guy Ritchie inject some passion into cold-blooded rationalist Holmes with their Victorian-era crime tale inspired by Arthur Conan Doyle's detective stories, featuring Jude Law as sidekick Watson.

Holmes "is a weirdo by any standards," Downey said. "He has dedicated the entirety of his adult life to this one purpose, which is being a consulting detective and knowing things that other people don't take the time to make it their business to know.

"That said, there's something kind of bohemian about him. He also has made no effort to cultivate friendships with anybody, because that would be to the exclusion of his prime mover. So he's trippy."

Here's a look at some of the other good, bad and trippy types in store this season:

VIRTUAL PEOPLE

James Cameron's "Avatar" leads a rush of films featuring humans in phony forms, including Bruce Willis' "Surrogates," a murder thriller in a world where people live vicariously through robot replicas, and Gerard Butler's "Gamer," where mind-control allows puppetmaster players to toy with real people in lethal games.

"Avatar" stars Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana and Cameron's "Aliens" hero Sigourney Weaver in a 3-D saga in which human explorers embody clones of an alien race to explore their planet's fantastic environment. Cameron's ocean explorations for the documentary "Aliens of the Deep" helped spark his imagination for the life forms of "Avatar."

"I've seen some pretty amazing things at the bottom of the ocean. I've seen in some cases things that have never been seen or described by science before. So I know there are wonders out there and I know that nature is infinitely more inventive not only than we imagined, but than we can imagine," Cameron said.

LIVING THE LIE

Ricky Gervais directs, co-writes and stars as the world's first fibber in "The Invention of Lying," featuring Jennifer Garner and Tina Fey in a comedy about an alternate reality where everyone tells the truth—until one man discovers the benefits of dishonesty.

Matt Damon and Steven Soderbergh, collaborators on the "Ocean's Eleven" romps, reunite for the whistleblower tale "The Informant!", based on Kurt Eichenwald's book about Archers Daniel Midland executive Mark Whitacre, who turned FBI mole in a price-fixing scheme at the agriculture-processing company.

The film plays as dark comedy, Soderbergh centering on the absurdity of Whitacre's deceitful, vainglorious cooperation with his FBI handlers.

"Steven really kind of set on this idea of him being the most unreliable narrator. There's information in the book that's just kind of doled out slowly, where you go, 'Wait a minute, something's not quite right,'" Damon said. "It's sort of the liar who keeps saying, 'OK, now I'm telling you everything.'"

MONEY-GRUBBERS

"Greed is good," robber baron Gordon Gecko declared in "Wall Street." As the world reels over the great recession resulting from that philosophy, Hollywood is selling tickets for some moralizing over the price of greed, led by Jim Carrey in a new incarnation of Charles Dickens' great skinflint, Ebenezer Scrooge.

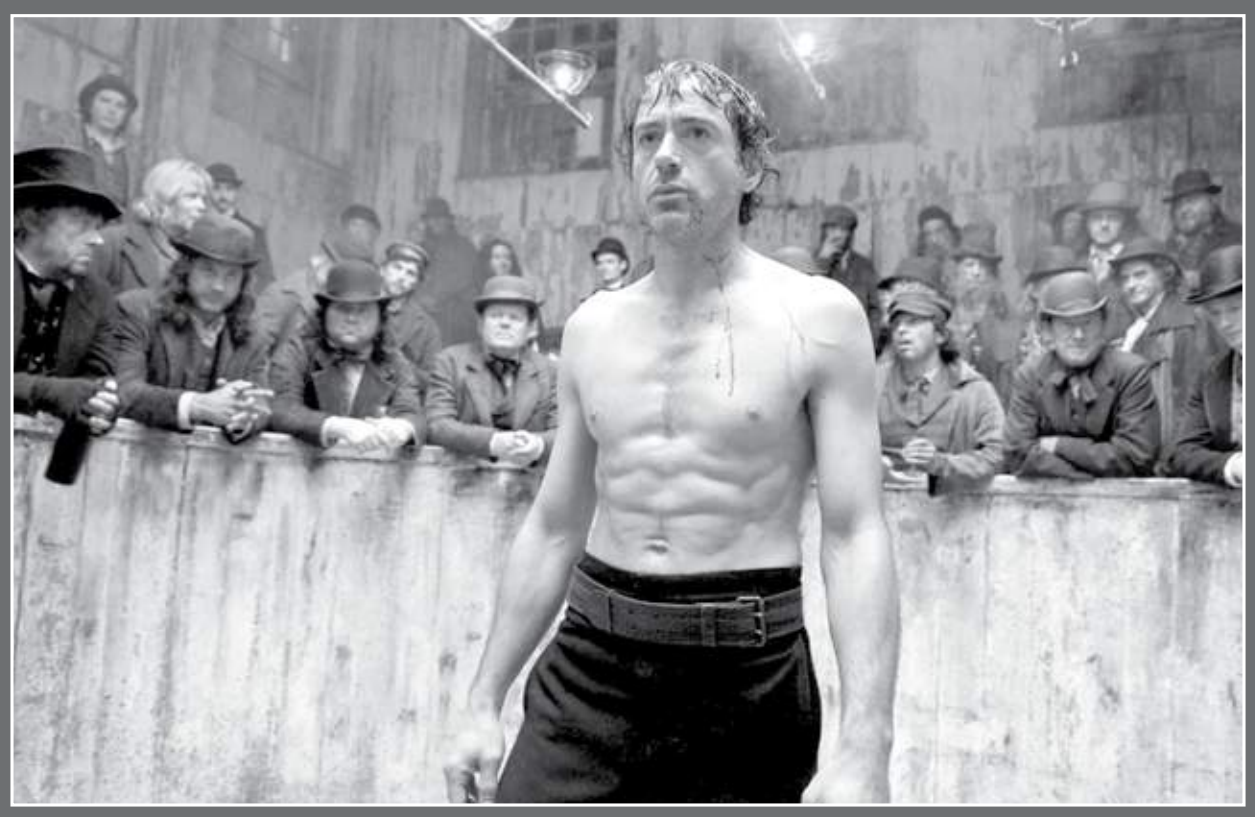
Crafted through the same motion-capture techniques and computer animation used on "The Polar Express" and "Beowulf," Robert Zemeckis' "A Christmas Carol" features Carrey as Scrooge and the three holiday ghosts who show him the error of his miserly ways.

Documentary firebrand Michael Moore weighs in with "Capitalism: A Love Story," expanding the humor-and-heartbreak approach of his General Motors tale "Roger & Me" for an assault on the practices of corporations and financial speculators.

Cameron Diaz and James Marsden are forced into some serious money moralizing in "The Box," about a couple given a contraption that will deliver $1 million with the press of a button—at the cost of a stranger's life.

Would people give in to the temptation?

"The answer has to be, I think, no. Because you might really regret it one day," Diaz said. "I would hope that I would find another way to solve my problems other than having to kill somebody."



Robert Downey Jr. portrays the great detective Sherlock Holmes in a scene from the movie of the same name.

CLASS ACTS

Hollywood's prestige season includes entries from Academy Award winners Morgan Freeman and Hilary Swank as real-life role models.

Swank stars as Amelia Earhart in director Mira Nair's "Amelia," co-starring Richard Gere and Ewan McGregor in the life story of the aviation pioneer who vanished on her around-the-world flight in 1937.

"Invictus" reunites Freeman with "Million Dollar Baby" and "Unforgiven" director Clint Eastwood for the story of Nelson Mandela's partnership with a rugby star (Matt Damon) who helped unify their country as South Africa's team makes an underdog dash through the 1995 World Cup.

Joel and Ethan Coen return to their Minnesota roots with "A Serious Man," about a physics professor in the late 1960s abandoned by his wife as he struggles with a layabout brother, two problem children and blackmail and career sabotage on campus.

Jim Sheridan's "Brothers" stars Natalie Portman, Tobey Maguire and Jake Gyllenhaal in a drama about a U.S. Marine captain who returns from the dead to find that his black-sheep brother has stepped in as man of the house for his wife and kids.

Peter Jackson adapts Alice Sebold's "The Lovely Bones," featuring Rachel Weisz, Mark Wahlberg and Susan Sarandon in the saga of a murdered girl (Saoirse Ronan) watching over her grieving family—as well as her killer—from beyond the grave.

"I read the book and I cried," Jackson said. "If you've lost somebody and somebody close to you has passed away, that book is a terrific tonic, because it affirms the afterlife and it gives you hope. And it gives you an understanding that so long as you remember people and so long as you honor their memory, they're never going to go away."

FAMILY FARE

Singing rodents return in "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel," with Alvin, Simon and Theodore in a battle-of-the-bands showdown with three female chipmunks.

Food falls from the sky in an animated adaptation of the children's book "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs," the story of a town where plenty eventually becomes too much.

Tom Hanks and Tim Allen are back as Woody and Buzz in 3-D versions of "Toy Story," the first computer-animated feature film, and "Toy Story 2," which play as a double-feature in advance of next year's "Toy Story 3."

Disney bucks the computer-animation trend with a throwback to its hand-drawn cartoon roots on "The Princess and the Frog," updating the fairy tale about a girl and her slimy prince.

The animated adventure "Planet 51" features the voices of Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and Jessica Biel in the tale of an astronaut who discovers a world of tiny green aliens living the "Ozzie and Harriet" life of 1950s America.

George Clooney puts his silver tongue to use in a screen version of Roald Dahl's storybook "Fantastic Mr. Fox," about a chicken thief whose wily ways land him and his animal pals in a battle against nasty farmers.

With a voice cast including James Gandolfini, Forest Whitaker and Catherine O'Hara, "Where the Wild Things Are" casts an adventurous boy onto an island where he rules over an assortment of cuddly but unpredictable beasts.

Rather than relying on digital effects to bring Maurice Sendak's exotic world to life, director Spike Jonze stuffed performers into bulky suits on real sets to adapt the picture book.

"When he goes to this place, it's a real place," Jonze said. "Its creatures, you can walk up and touch them. They can bump into him and shove him, hug him and pet him. There's a real forest, real beaches, real sand and real dirt and real wind. Doing it that way, I thought it would feel the most visceral and the most dangerous."

SINGERS AND DANCERS

Michael Jackson's 50-night concert stand in London never came to pass. But rehearsal footage for his comeback shows offer what's sure to be one of the biggest music documentaries ever as "Michael Jackson: This Is It" hits theaters for a limited two-week run.

"Chicago" director Rob Marshall presents his next movie musical with "Nine," featuring Nicole Kidman, Daniel Day-Lewis, Penelope Cruz, Kate Hudson, Marion Cotillard, Judi Dench and Sophia Loren in an adaptation of Federico Fellini's "8 1/2."

A new gang of young wannabes sharpen their talents in "Fame," an update of the 1980s film set at a high school for the performing arts, with a faculty cast that includes Kelsey Grammer, Megan Mullally and Debbie Allen, who co-starred in the original.

DOOMSDAY

Just when you thought hard times were bottoming out, the apocalypse hits in "The Road," adapted from Cormac McCarthy's novel about a man (Viggo Mortensen) trying to fend for his young son across a bleak America struck by catastrophe.

John Cusack heads the cast of "2012" as survivors of worldwide cataclysms struggle on in the action tale from Roland Emmerich ("The Day After Tomorrow").

FUNNY PEOPLE

Hollywood spreads the love with a rush of romantic comedies, including "Did You Hear About the Morgans?", with Sarah Jessica Parker and Hugh Grant as a couple whose failing marriage may get a second chance after they're sent into witness protection; "All About Steve," starring Sandra Bullock stalking the man she thinks is her true love; "Couple's Retreat," featuring Vince Vaughn, Kristin Davis, Jon Favreau and Kristen Bell working out relationship kinks on a therapy vacation; and "It's Complicated," about a woman (Meryl Streep) pursued by two men (Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin).

George Clooney takes to the skies in "Juno" director Jason Reitman's "Up in the Air," playing a corporate-downsizing specialist whose nomadic life is put in jeopardy just as he nears an epic milestone in his frequent-flyer mileage account.

"Old Dogs" features Robin Williams as a single guy forced to care for young twins he never knew he had, enlisting the help of his womanizing business partner (John Travolta) to raise them.

Travolta's character "starts using them as bait for women, as cougar bait," Williams said. "He's like, `Chicks dig kids,' and he's using them to kind of gather around older, sexier women."

'Final Destination' arrives at No. 1 with $28.3M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Movie fans have made fear their top destination at the weekend box office.

The horror tale "The Final Destination" debuted as the No. 1 movie with $28.3 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. The Warner Bros. sequel is the latest installment in the franchise about people stalked by death after a premonition saves them from their destined demise.

"Final Destination" took over the top spot from Quentin Tarantino and Brad Pitt's World War II saga "Inglourious Basterds," which slipped to second place with $20 million. The Weinstein Co. release raised its total to $73.8 million after 10 days in theaters.

Weinstein also had the No. 3 slot with the horror flick "Halloween II," which opened with $17.4 million. The movie is Rob Zombie's sequel to his update of the slasher franchise about crazed killer Michael Myers.

It's unusual for two horror movies to open over the same weekend. While "Final Destination" and "Halloween II" competed for the same audience, both managed solid receipts.

1. "**The Final Destination**," $28.3 million.
2. "**Inglourious Basterds**," $20 million.
3. "**Halloween II**," $17.4 million.
4. "**District 9**," $10.7 million.
5. "**G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra**," $8 million.
6. "**Julie & Julia**," $7.4 million.
7. "**The Time Traveler's Wife**," $6.7 million.
8. "**Shorts**," $4.9 million.
9. "**Taking Woodstock**," $3.7 million.
10. "**G-Force**," $2.8 million

"They got their $17 million, we got our $28 million. That's a lot of business all around," said Jeff Goldstein, general sales manager for Warner Bros.

"Final Destination" continued Hollywood's streak of 3-D successes. The 3-D component accounted for 70 percent of the movie's revenues, even though only 54 percent of the 3,121 theaters where it played offered the movie in 3D.

The Weinstein Co. plans to release "Halloween 3" in 3-D next summer, said Bob Weinstein, who co-founded the company with brother Harvey. While Zombie will not be back to direct, the next sequel will pick up from his story and give a new twist on slasher Myers, Weinstein said.

"Halloween II" did far less business than Zombie's "Halloween," which opened at No. 1 with $30.6 million two years ago. But Weinstein noted that the sequel took in more than its $15 million production budget over opening weekend.

"It's like hitting a single or a double," Weinstein said. "There are going to be bigger ones like 'Inglourious Basterds,' but for the Weinstein Co., we don't mind having two or three of these a year."

The weekend's other new wide release, Focus Features' music romp "Taking Woodstock," opened a weak No. 9 with $3.7 million. Directed by Ang Lee ("Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," "Brokeback Mountain"), "Taking Woodstock" is a nostalgic look behind the scenes at the mammoth 1969 rock concert.

Though Hollywood's summer season historically does not end until Labor Day, the holiday comes late this year, adding an extra week to the movie schedule and skewing comparisons to past summers.

Hollywood.com box-office analyst Paul Dergarabedian is using this Monday to mark the end of the season, since this weekend corresponded to Labor Day weekend last year. Dergarabedian estimated that through Monday, Hollywood will have taken in $4.26 billion, 1.5 percent ahead of the revenue record the industry set in summer 2008.

While receipts ran at an all-time high, attendance was off 2.2 percent compared with last summer factoring in this year's higher ticket prices, he said.

Revenues had lagged compared to last year's because of a midsummer skid, but Hollywood finished with an unusually strong lineup in August, typically a quiet time at the box office.

"August gave us the record," Dergarabedian said. "Virtually every summer crosses the finish line with a whimper. This year, we crossed with a bang."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

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Final Destination 4

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:30
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:30
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Mon. thru Thurs.		4:25	7:20	

Bobby Campo, Shantel VanSanten
Supernatural • Rated R

Synopsis
On what should have been a fun-filled day at the races, Nick O'Bannon has a horrific premonition in which a bizarre sequence of events causes multiple race cars to crash, sending flaming debris into the stands, brutally killing his friends and causing the upper deck of the stands to collapse on him. When he comes out of this grisly nightmare Nick panics, persuading his girlfriend, Lori, and their friends, Janet and Hunt, to leave... escaping seconds before Nick's frightening vision becomes a terrible reality. Thinking they've cheated death, the group has a new lease on life, but unfortunately for Nick and Lori, it is only the beginning.

Shorts

Friday		4:10	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:05	4:10	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:05	4:10	7:15	
Mon. thru Thurs.		4:10	7:15	

Jimmy Bennett, Jake Short
Children • Rated PG

Synopsis
Eleven-year-old Toe Thompson is the designated punching bag for the bullies of the suburban community of Black Falls, where his and everyone else's parents work for Black Box Industries, makers of the do-it-all gadget that's sweeping the nation. But during a freak storm, a mysterious Rainbow Rock, which grants wishes to anyone who finds it, falls from the sky. Suddenly, the neighborhood that Toe already thinks is weird is about to get a lot weirder.

Inglourious Basterds

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon. thru Thurs.		4:00	7:00	

Brad Pitt, Diane Kruger
Political • Rated R

Synopsis
In the first year of the German occupation of France, Shosanna Dreyfus witnesses the execution of her family at the hand of Nazi Colonel Hans Landa. Shosanna narrowly escapes and flees to Paris where she forges a new identity as the owner and operator of a cinema. Elsewhere in Europe, Lieutenant Aldo Raine organizes a group of Jewish American soldiers to perform swift, shocking acts of retribution. Later known to their enemy as "the basterds," Raine's squad joins German actress and undercover agent Bridget von Hammersmark on a mission to take down the leaders of the Third Reich.

District 9

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:05	7:10	9:50
Sunday	1:10	4:05	7:10	
Mon. thru Thurs.		4:05	7:10	

Sharito Copley, Jason Cope
Sci-Fi • Rated R

The Time Traveler's Wife

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:25	4:20	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:25	4:20	7:05	
Mon. thru Thurs.		4:20	7:05	

Rachel McAdams, Eric Bana
Drama, Romance, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

G-Force

Friday		4:15	7:30	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:30	9:45
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:30	
Mon. thru Thurs.		4:15	7:30	

Nicolas Cage, Steve Buscemi
Action, Animated • Rated PG

G.I. JOE

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:30	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:30	7:25	
Mon. thru Thurs.		4:30	7:25	

Dennis Quaid, Channing Tatum
War • Rated PG 13

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AP

The cast and crew of the "Bold and the Beautiful" pose with the outstanding drama series award backstage at the Daytime Emmy Awards on Sunday Aug. 30, 2009, in Los Angeles.

'The Bold and the Beautiful' wins drama series

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Bold and the Beautiful" won drama series honors at the Daytime Emmys on Sunday, the CBS soap opera's first such victory in 22 years on the air.

It was a poignant victory for executive producer Bradley Bell, whose late father William J. Bell co-created "The Young and the Restless," a show that was honored seven times in the same category. The younger Bell's mother, Lee Phillip Bell who worked closely with her husband and also on her son's show, cheered him on.

"It's incredibly exciting because I grew up going to visit that show," Bell said backstage. "It's sweeter after 22 years, it didn't come in five or 10 or 15 years. I think my dad is here in spirit. He would probably say, `It's about time.' I took out the expletive."

The live telecast on the CW went off the air just as the cast and crew was assembling on the stage to accept its trophy.

"That's fine with me," Bell said. "The less of me at a microphone the better. It was your run-of-the-mill acceptance speech."

Drama series lead acting honors went to Christian LeBlanc of "The Young and the Restless," and Susan Haskell of ABC's "One Life to Live."

LeBlanc scored his third career trophy, taking a playful bite out of the globe on the trophy.

"You cannot resist the excitement," he said backstage.

"Guiding Light" earned one of its last trophies before it leaves the air after 72 years. Jeff Branson, who plays Shayne Lewis on the CBS soap, tied for supporting actor.

"This is so bittersweet," he said backstage.

He tied with Vincent Irizarry of ABC's "All My Children," who got his soap start on "Guiding Light" in the early 1980s.

"I have such affection for that show. I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of television history," Irizarry said backstage. "What other medium is producing product that lasts 72 years? It has entertained not only generations, but employed generations of people."

Singing, dancing, comedy and a touch of pathos set against the glitzy backdrop of a historic theatre were part of the 36th annual Daytime Emmys in an attempt to lure an eroding audience for award shows.

Sunday's broadcast relocated to the Orpheum Theatre in downtown Los Angeles, leaving its recent home at Hollywood's Kodak Theatre. Opened in 1926, the venue has hosted everyone from Judy Garland and Jack Benny to Duke Ellington and Stevie Wonder.

Honoring everything from soaps to talk shows to game shows, it's the first time the awards weren't on one of the major three networks. They had alternated between ABC and CBS the last four years.

Host Vanessa Williams' singing and dancing chops were on display in the opening number, a parody set to "Can't Take My Eyes Off of You" from the Broadway musical "Jersey Boys" in which she was comically inserted into scenes from soaps and game shows.

Later, she sang and danced with "Dancing With the Stars" runner-up Gilles Marini.

The Daytime Emmys paid tribute to "Guiding Light," which CBS canceled after a 72-year run that predates television. The low-rated soap will air its final episode in September, leaving just eight daytime dramas on the air. CBS and ABC will have three weekday soaps, with NBC having one.

Bush daughter Jenna Hager becomes 'Today' reporter

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC's "Today" show has hired someone with White House experience as a new correspondent—former first daughter Jenna Hager.

The daughter of former President George W. Bush will contribute stories about once a month on issues like education to television's top-rated morning news show, said Jim Bell, its executive producer.

Hager, a 27-year-old teacher in Baltimore, said she has always wanted to be a teacher and a writer, and has already authored two books. But she was intrigued by the idea of getting into television when Bell contacted her.

"It wasn't something I'd always dreamed to do," she said. "But I think one of the most important things in life is to be open-minded and to be open-minded for change."

Bush

She'll essentially work two part-time jobs as a correspondent and in her school, where she will be a reading coordinator this year.

Bell said he got the idea after seeing Hager in two "Today" appearances. She was on the program two years ago to promote her book about an HIV-infected single mother, "Ana's Story: A Journey of Hope," and it went so well that a short interview was stretched to nearly a half hour. She and her mother, Laura Bush, also co-hosted an hour of "Today" around the time their picture book came out.

She "just sort of popped to us as a natural presence, comfortable" on the air, Bell said. Hager will work out of NBC's Washington bureau.

"I think she can handle it," he said. "I think she knows something about pressure and being under some scrutiny. When she came here for a handful of appearances, she knocked it out of the park."

He expects her first story, most likely concerning education, to be on sometime next month.

A first television job on "Today" is, in her father's world, sort of like a run for president as a first attempt at elective office. Hager said that people on the show "have always made me, whenever I've been there, feel very comfortable."

Pakistan reality TV contestant drowns in challenge

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A contestant on a Pakistani reality TV show drowned while performing a challenge for the program, a spokeswoman for the show's sponsor said Sunday.

Pakistani contestant Saad Khan, 32, was swimming across a lake while wearing a 15-pound (7-kilogram) backpack when he called out for help and then disappeared underwater, according to Fareshte Aslam, information officer for Unilever Pakistan, the show's sponsor.

Horrified co-contestants and crew rushed to try to save him but could not find him in the murky waters of the lake in the Thai capital of Bangkok, where the show was being filmed, according to Aslam, who was recounting reports of those on the scene.

Divers later recovered the body of Khan, she said.

The death came during filming of the show's 10th episode on Aug. 19, but it was not publicized until Khan's body was returned home to the southern Pakistani city of Karachi.

Thai police were investigating to determine whether the death was an accident or caused by negligence, Bangkok's Kom Chad Luek newspaper reported earlier this month. Police could not be contacted Sunday to say if the investigation had been completed.

Unilever Pakistan accepts no liability for Khan's death, Aslam said, but added that the company is in discussions to provide for Khan's wife and four children "out of rightness."

A close friend of Khan's, Babar Jumani, said by telephone that the family was not ready to talk to the media, and he declined to comment further.

Khan had already been eliminated in the as-yet-unnamed show's previous rounds, but had returned for a special challenge to earn a spot in the finals.

Plans to air the reality show—intended as a promotional tie for Unilever's Clear shampoo—were on hold. A

AP

U.S. singer Madonna, center, arrives to visit the Western Wall tunnels, Judaism's holiest site, as the Western Wall is seen in the background, in Jerusalem's Old City, Sunday, Aug. 30, 2009.

Madonna tours Jewish holy sites in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Material Girl has opened a visit to the Holy Land with a spiritual touch.

Madonna headed to Jerusalem's Old City late Sunday where she toured an ancient tunnel near the Western Wall—the holiest site where Jews can pray.

The 51-year-old pop star arrived in a black Mercedes van and was escorted into the tunnel by police. She made no comment to reporters and was whisked away about a half hour later.

Madonna isn't Jewish, but she's a follower of Jewish mysticism and has even taken the Hebrew name Esther.

She arrived early Sunday for a pair of concerts this week. It will be her first performance in Israel since 1993, though she came on private pilgrimages in 2004 and 2007.

Madonna is also set to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday.

Restorer finds hidden pig in 1600s Dutch work

GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan (AP)—A restorer has found a hidden image of a butchered pig in a 17th century Dutch painting owned by a Michigan college.

Barn Interior, one of 16 paintings given to Calvin College by alumnus Cornelius Van Nuis two years ago, shows a woman and two children inside a barn. It was painted by Egbert van der Poel, who lived from 1621 to 1664.

Last summer, Calvin director of exhibitions Joel Zwart sent the picture to Chicago art conservator Barry Bauman for cleaning.

Bauman noticed that a ladder on the left side of the painting had been heavily painted over and the paint was flaking.

Underneath, he discovered the pig, butchered and stretched hanging upside down from the ladder.

"It was painted over, and the obvious question is, Why was it painted over?" said Zwart. "Well, it was most likely not covered over by the artist. Very likely a wealthy patron bought it.

AP

This undated photo released by Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., shows the painting Barn Interior by the 17th century Dutch artist Egbert van der Poel.

"It's this grotesque scene, this butchered animal hanging in a barn. And quite likely this patron hired another artist to paint it over."

Zwart said the restored work "looks a lot different than before, and it looks better.

The restoration work also revealed information about the painting's history. It turns out that the work is a "pendant," one of a pair of paintings on a shared theme. Barn Interior's companion painting hangs in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam.

Art history professor Henry Luttikhuizen said he is pleased the discoveries about the painting are drawing attention to Van Nuis, who died last year.

Patience is stretched thin in doctors' waiting rooms

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Your advice to "Sick of Waiting in Denver" (June 25) will help a number of our patients. Physicians don't want frustrated and angry patients, and we don't plan our day expecting long waits. Your suggestion that when a doctor is running more than 15 minutes late, the next person should be warned is appropriate.

Your other suggestion to call the doctor's office an hour ahead of time to see if he/she is on schedule might not work. The physician might be on schedule, but a problem could arise that throws him/her off. Arriving at the office and finding the doctor horribly backed up after hearing that he was on schedule at the time of the phone call would be upsetting.

Unfortunately, I haven't found an easy solution to this in my 25 years of practice. It does help to focus on good manners and empathy, and to alert patients at the time of check-in if there's a problem, which allows them to return or reschedule. Of course, the physician conveying personally to his patients that their time is as important as his also goes a long way.

MARC SCHNEIDERMAN, M.D., PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR DR. SCHNEIDERMAN: Amen to that, and thank you for saying so. Read on for some of the comments I received from patients:

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I find it interesting that the doctor's rights are prominently posted in the waiting room, e.g., co-pays are due before you see the doctor, if you don't cancel your appointment 24 hours in advance and you fail to show up, you will be billed for the appointment. But nowhere do you see the patients' rights posted.

As a patient I insist on one simple right—that the doctor see me within 15 minutes of the appointed time made by his/her staff. Last year I fired two doctors for keeping me waiting. In both cases I let the doctor know I would no longer be seeing them and why. One had the gall to tell me his patients EXPECTED to wait for him!

As patients, we enable doctors to get away with unprofessional behavior by not insisting on accountability. I am a professional, and time spent in a doctor's office is time taken away from my clients. My time is as valuable to me as the doctors' time is to them.

LARRY W., SUN CITY, ARIZ.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I suggest that whenever possible, patients should request the first appointment in the morning or after lunch. The chances of being seen on time are greater at those times.

MAGGIE B., DANA POINT, CALIF.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband had an appointment with a physician who kept him waiting an hour in the waiting room and nearly another hour in the examination room. When the doctor finally appeared, my husband complained about the long wait.

"I'm a doctor and I can't be rushed," he responded. "If I make a mistake, someone could DIE."

My husband, without missing a beat said, "Really? Well, I'm an architect. If I make a mistake, THOUSANDS could die. I guess I win."

With that, he got dressed and walked out. Needless to say, we never returned to that doctor.

I disagree that it is the patient's job to make sure the doctor isn't running late. His office staff can easily inform people of that fact when they walk in, giving them the option of waiting if they wish (or can).

NO LONGER WAITING, HARMONY, PA.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a professional. My hourly fees are similar to those of doctors. My policy is any waiting time after 30 minutes, I bill the doctor for my time.

PATRICK IN SAN ANSELMO

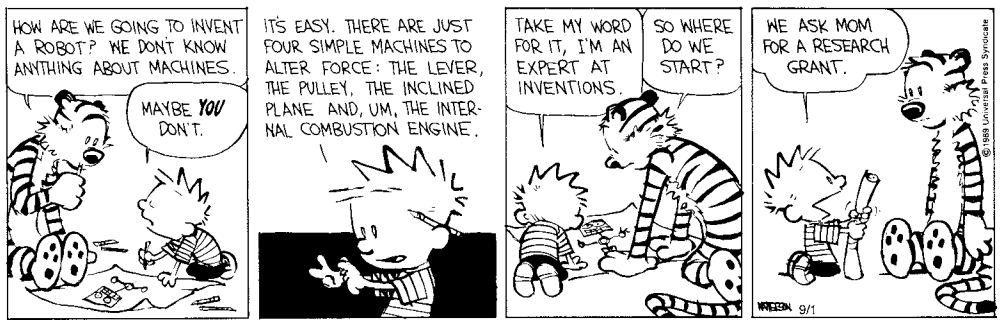
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HOW ARE WE GOING TO INVENT A ROBOT? WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MACHINES.
MAYBE YOU DON'T.
IT'S EASY. THERE ARE JUST FOUR SIMPLE MACHINES TO ALTER FORCE: THE LEVER, THE PULLEY, THE INCLINED PLANE AND, UM, THE INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE.
TAKE MY WORD FOR IT, I'M AN EXPERT AT INVENTIONS.
SO WHERE DO WE START?
WE ASK MOM FOR A RESEARCH GRANT.
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WATTERSON 9/1

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS, JON!
THIS IS A BLANK PIECE OF PAPER
THEN MAY I ASSUME YOU CAN ALSO SEE THAT MY DISH IS EMPTY?
FIELD
JIM DAVIS 9-1
www.garfield.com
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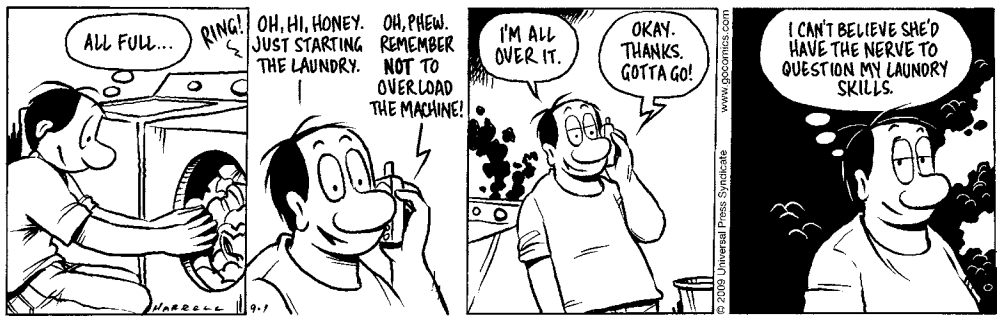
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ALL FULL... RING!
OH, HI, HONEY. JUST STARTING THE LAUNDRY.
OH, PHEW. REMEMBER NOT TO OVERLOAD THE MACHINE!
I'M ALL OVER IT.
OKAY. THANKS. GOTTA GO!
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'D HAVE THE NERVE TO QUESTION MY LAUNDRY SKILLS.
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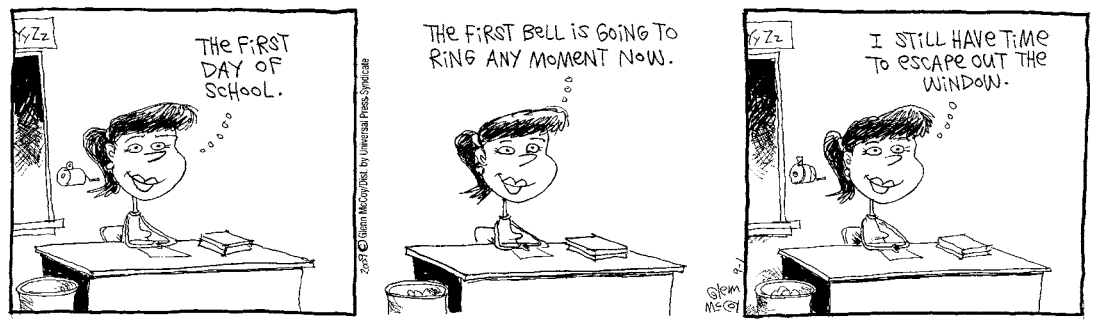
www.gocomics.com
HARRELL 9-1

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.
THE FIRST BELL IS GOING TO RING ANY MOMENT NOW.
I STILL HAVE TIME TO ESCAPE OUT THE WINDOW.
ZzZz
2-31 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
Glenn McCoy 9-1

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Antelope's playmate
5 Stinging insect
9 Police officer
12 Leer at
13 Cake topper
14 Sapporo sash
15 Group with a job
17 Swab the decks
18 Picnic invaders
19 Hamstrings
21 Doesn't have
24 Staffer
25 Lotion additive
26 Non-noble
30 Doctrine
31 Lions' prides
32 Spy novel org.
33 Subway patron
35 Actress Gilpin
36 Lhasa —
37 Burdened
38 Mold and mildew
40 Yoked team
42 Moreover
43 Town
48 Altar affirmative
49 Neighborhood
50 A Great Lake
51 Angeles preceder
52 Eye part
53 Lairs

DOWN
1 "What's up, —?"
2 Id counterpart
3 Shady tree
4 Unoriginal movie?
5 Skater Katarina
6 Performances
7 Witness
8 Earlier bouts
9 Began
10 Reed instrument
11 Gladys Knight's backup
16 — and outs
20 Commotion
21 Secular
22 As well
23 Shock troops
24 U.S.
26 Censor of old Rome
27 Inseparable
28 Green land
29 Reason for a tarp
31 Rodgers & Hammerstein creation
34 Gasoline stat
35 Gave a bad review to
37 Romanian money
38 Go belly up
39 Destroy
40 Portent
41 Opening day?
44 Raw rock
45 Anger
46 Sardine container
47 "Absolutely"

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	A	B	A	■	L	O	S	■	A	M	I	D
A	B	U	N	D	A	N	T	■	S	I	R	E
H	A	N	G	O	V	E	R	■	I	C	O	N
■	■	■	L	E	A	■	A	S	M	A	N	Y
U	L	C	E	R	■	T	I	T	O	■	■	■
P	A	I	R	■	R	U	N	O	V	E	R	■
S	P	A	■	R	E	N	E	W	■	D	A	Y
■	P	O	P	O	V	E	R	■	D	A	Z	E
■	■	■	L	I	A	R	■	G	A	M	E	S
E	M	B	A	L	M	■	A	U	K	■	■	■
V	A	R	Y	■	P	U	L	L	O	V	E	R
E	S	A	U	■	E	R	U	P	T	I	O	N
S	T	E	P	■	D	I	M	■	A	N	N	A

Yesterday's answer 9-1

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12				■	13				■	14		
15				16					■	17		
■	■	■	18				■	19	20			
21	22	23			■	■	24				■	■
25				■	26	27					28	29
30			■	31					■	32		
33			34					■	35			
■	■	36				■	■	37				
38	39				■	40	41			■	■	■
42			■	43	44					45	46	47
48				49				■	50			
51			■	52				■	53			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Gloria Estefan, 52; Dr. Phil McGraw, 59; Barry Gibb, 63; Lily Tomlin, 70

Happy Birthday: You will have to make some serious decisions regarding your home and family this year. Don't be afraid of change or added responsibility if it comes with future promises of financial or emotional growth. An argument will not have a happy ending, so avoid discord by striving for compromise. Most of all, remember to be true to yourself and the ones you love most. Your numbers are 6, 9, 14, 22, 25, 37, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): The more you step out on a limb for someone or something you believe in, the better you will do. There is plenty of potential coupled with opportunities if you work alongside people with the same goal or point of view. Don't fear the unknown. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't count on anyone who is trying to pressure you. Even if promised, you aren't likely to get what you want in the end. Instead, go it alone. You will be able to capture attention by giving the most for the least. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Someone critical will be waiting for you to make a mistake. Your insight and ability to do things with finesse should be enough to keep everyone happy. Love and romance will lead to a chance to travel. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): If you overload your agenda you will end up feeling anxious. An argument will harm a relationship you have with someone from work or with whom you have to deal regularly. Make your home more adaptable for the responsibilities you have taken on. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll be able to express your feelings effortlessly. The talks you have will clear up any misconceptions. Plan a vacation that will allow you some time to relax. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A serious attitude will help you persuade others to take a chance on you. Uncertainty regarding someone you love can be cleared up with a few simple questions. Don't make assumptions or you will make a poor decision. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Love is on the rise and a chance to share your emotions with someone special will develop. It's time to make new friends and to find new hobbies. Idle time will lead to anxiety. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Watch your back. Someone you think you can trust will let you down. Focus on work, helping others and visiting friends. Creative collaboration will pay off. Avoid overindulgence in any form. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You will discover alternative ways to make more money. A love relationship can lead to an easier lifestyle and less pressure on you. Follow your heart; it will not lead you astray. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You may be under a little pressure. Don't let anyone push you to do something before you are ready. A serious deal will require more time and effort if you want to maximize the outcome. Find out everything you can. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You can clear matters up by talking about the way you feel and what your plans are for the future. Don't hold back when so much depends on being truthful about your concerns and intentions. Love and romance will take a favorable turn. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't get caught up in the hoopla when there is so much more to the events taking place. Do your research and find out what and who is behind a project or event you want to be a part of. There may be a change of heart regarding a partnership. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, original, a humanitarian and a strong competitor. You don't fear change and you welcome the new and exciting.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				4		6	5	
		2	5					9
	9		6			3		1
	3	4		9				
1								6
				5		9	7	
4		8			5		2	
9					7	8		
	7	5		6				

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	1	8	7	4	2	9	6	5
4	2	6	3	5	9	8	7	1
7	5	9	6	1	8	3	2	4
1	4	5	9	7	3	2	8	6
8	9	7	2	6	1	4	5	3
6	3	2	5	8	4	1	9	7
2	6	4	8	3	5	7	1	9
5	8	3	1	9	7	6	4	2
9	7	1	4	2	6	5	3	8

Difficulty Level ★ 8/31

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TYROSINE **Solution: 10 letters**

P	S	I	H	S	I	F	M	N	M	D	L	O	C	P
E	E	L	S	D	O	S	E	E	I	A	O	I	H	A
P	S	A	L	O	Ⓓ	Ⓘ	Ⓔ	Ⓣ	L	E	T	O	S	R
I	E	U	N	E	M	S	R	E	K	A	S	E	F	K
N	E	E	L	U	C	E	L	O	M	P	N	A	M	I
E	D	M	L	S	T	H	R	Y	H	Y	T	I	C	N
P	S	P	A	S	Y	T	Z	O	O	A	Z	P	N	S
H	L	A	U	S	L	N	T	A	D	H	E	N	I	O
R	L	L	C	O	E	Y	T	H	M	R	T	T	E	N
I	C	E	N	I	R	S	Y	H	Y	S	U	R	T	S
N	L	E	V	O	D	O	P	A	E	R	A	G	O	T
E	H	P	S	E	G	T	S	M	K	S	O	L	R	R
P	E	I	I	U	L	O	B	E	A	N	I	I	P	E
N	N	T	R	L	Y	H	Y	P	P	O	P	Z	D	S
E	S	T	S	A	L	P	O	R	O	L	H	C	E	S

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Acid, Bean, Casein, Cells, Chloroplasts, Cluster, Cold, Data, Diet, Dose, Drug, Enzymatic, Enzyme, Epinephrine, Fish, Food, Isomer, Level, Levodopa, Melanin, Meta, Milk, Molecule, Ortho, Parkinsons, Peanut, Phenol, Phosphotyrosine, Photosynthesis, Pill, Plasma, Poppy, Protein, Seeds, Sesame, Sleep, Soy, Stress, Synthesize, Thyroid, Turkey, Yogurt

Yesterday's Answer: Humidor

WONDERWORD offers the "Book of Celebrities," for $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to **WONDERWORD**, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF RITA HOCOG INOS,	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0337A**
Deceased.	**NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION**

TO: All Heirs, Interested Claimants, and Creditors

Notice is hereby given that Cristobal S. Inos, of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has filed a petition in the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to be appointed as Administrator of the Estate of Rita Hocog Inos, deceased, and to determine the heirs of the decedent. The hearing on the petition is set for the 29th day of September, 2009, at the Superior Court in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, at 1:30 p.m. All interested persons should appear at this hearing.

All persons having any claims against the estate, or against the deceased should file their claims with the Clerk of Court of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice.

Dated this 31st day of August, 2009.

Bemadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By Deputy Clerk of Court

FINAL NOTICE

JOSE R. RAMOS (153441)

Please report to your employer immediately. Failure to report will result in your termination and repatriation.

Misamis Construction (Saipan), Ltd.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

stand **crowd**

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ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
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• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Slocum pulls off surprise victory at Barclays

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)—Heath Slocum might have been the one player no one expected to win The Barclays. He was locked in a tense battle over the final hour Sunday at Liberty National with some of the biggest names in golf—Tiger Woods, Steve Stricker, Padraig Harrington and Ernie Els.

Even more incredible is that a week ago, Slocum was not even sure he would make it to the opening event of the PGA Tour Playoffs. Having missed the cut, he had to wait until the tournament was over to learn that by the slimmest of margins—two points—he was the No. 124 seed out of the 125 players who qualified.

"My fate was not in my own hands," Slocum said.

He had his hands around that putter on the 18th green, however, and delivered the biggest shot of his life.

On the same green where Woods stunned the crowd by missing from 7 feet, Slocum knocked in a 20-foot par for a one-shot victory at The Barclays to get this FedEx Cup bonanza off to a compelling start.

Slocum closed with a 4-under 67 to win for the third time in his career, and first time in four years. The victory, worth $1.35 million, moved him from No. 124 to No. 3 in the FedEx Cup standings, giving him a shot at the $10 million prize next month in Atlanta.

"It was an incredible day, incredible experience," Slocum said. "I was just kind of lucky to come out on top. A lot of good players. At the end of the day, that putt on the last was magical. I'll remember that for the rest of my life."

It was another finish Woods would like to forget.

In his first tournament since losing a two-shot lead to unheralded Y.E. Yang in the PGA Championship, the putter again cost Woods a chance to win—not only the final round, but all week on greens he could never trust.

Heath Slocum, center, holds up his championship trophy after winning The Barclays golf tournament with a 9-under par 275, Sunday, Aug. 30, 2009, at Liberty National Golf Club in Jersey City, N.J.

AP

Woods rimmed out a 3-foot par putt early in the round. He twice missed from inside 10 feet on par 5s. And after another clutch shot on the 18th hole, this one a 6-iron from 189 yards to 7 feet with a chance to tie for the lead, the birdie putt slid by on the left.

"It happens," said Woods, who shot a 67. "Not too many golf courses that you misread putts that badly. This golf course is one."

The drama unfolded even after some of the stars had left the course.

Els finished his bogey-free 66 and had his clubs in the trunk of his car when he heard the loud cheer from the 18th green after Woods stuffed his 6-iron close. Then came a groan after the missed putt. Els had his golf shoes in a plastic bag when he was told that Slocum and Stricker, tied for the lead at 9 under had driven into fairway bunkers on the 18th. He quickly changed shoes and headed to the range.

Stricker caught the lip of the bunker, which left him short of the green, and hit wedge to 10 feet. Slocum also came up short, as did his wedge, leaving him 20 feet from the top of the ridge.

Slocum raised both arms in the air when his par putt broke gently back to the left and disappeared into the cup. Stricker's putt to force a two-way playoff caught the left lip of the cup.

In the third year of these playoffs, the FedEx Cup finally has a winner that resembles a real underdog.

"That's what it's all about," Slocum said. "I was sweating it out last week. I didn't even know if I'd be here. I come in here with the attitude that I had nothing to lose."

He turned into a huge winner.

Slocum, who came into The Barclays at No. 197 in the world ranking, finished at 9-under 275 for the biggest win of his career. His other two victories were opposite-field events, when the best players in the world were competing elsewhere.

He faced an All-Star cast across the Hudson River from Manhattan, and Slocum shined.

The 35-year-old knocked in a 25-foot birdie at No. 2, the toughest par 3 at Liberty National, then surged into a share of the lead by holing out from 157 yards with a 7-iron for eagle on No. 5. He was steady the rest of the way, especially on the 18th.

"Anybody here in this field has the potential to win the tournament," Stricker said. "Heath is a very steady player. He's a very good player. I don't think we should be surprised that he won."

The surprise came from Woods.

The world's No. 1 player was lurking most of the day, unable to get any traction while missing so many putts. A 3-footer for par rimmed around the cup at No. 4, and he failed to convert birdie putts on two of the par 5s from inside 10 feet.

Down the stretch, everything changed.

He made a 10-foot birdie on the 14th, saved par with a 15-foot putt on the next hole, and got in range with pitch to 2 feet for birdie on the 16th. And with everything riding on one shot, he nailed his 6-iron to birdie range.

Any other week, any other course, Woods making that putt was practically a given.

This one never had a chance.

"Usually, he makes it," Slocum said. "Ho-hum for him. I guess you can't make 'em all."

Els played bogey-free and pulled into a tie for the lead with a birdie on the par-3 14th. He might have been hurt using a new driver, after discovering a crack in his other one on Saturday. Els felt his tee shots were getting away to the right, and he didn't want to risk such a mistake on the par-4 16th, which played only 287 yards in the final round. He laid up and made par.

"From where I've come from, where my game has been, where my confidence has been, this is moving in the right direction," said Els, who has not won since March 2008 at the Honda Classic.

Harrington continued his solid form, getting into the mix for the third straight tournament. He finished with four birdies over the final seven holes, making a long birdie at the 18th.

The final round featured endless possibilities, except for the guys atop the leaderboard.

Steve Marino and Paul Goydos, tied for the lead at 9 under to start the final round, and Webb Simpson and Fredrik Jacobson, both two shots behind, combined to go 11-over par. Marino shot 77, while Goydos made only one birdie in his round of 75.

After Wimbledon, Roddick not mailing it in at Open

NEW YORK (AP)—Everyone, it seems, wanted to talk to Andy Roddick about his loss to Roger Federer in last month's epic Wimbledon final: the 16-14 fifth set, the 77 total games, the Centre Court crowd chanting the American's name afterward.

They wanted to console Roddick, pat him on the back, tell him what that match meant to THEM. Maybe offer some advice for next time.

Fellow players in the locker room. Fans on the street. Even the guy who delivers Roddick's mail at home in Texas.

As Roddick recounted in a series of Twitter postings on July 20, two weeks after that heartbreaker at the All England Club, the mailman told him he lost "cause i sweat a lot and don't change my shirt enough during the course of a match and it weighs me down."

Roddick wrapped up the story: "the best part was that he prefaced his shirt/sweat analysis with this quote 'i dont know anything about sports or tennis but.....'"

Ah, yes, everyone's an expert, huh? Really, though, what struck Roddick the most was how much that match resonated. If anything, that one defeat figures to make the best-known and highest-seeded U.S. man at the U.S. Open even more popular than usual at the American Grand Slam tournament.

"I'm not sure what kind of made people kind of emotionally invested in it," said the No. 5-seeded Roddick, who faces 84th-ranked Bjorn Phau of Germany in the first round Monday night.

Others scheduled to play on Day 1 include five-time defending champion Roger Federer against NCAA champion Devin Britton of Jackson, Miss.; No. 21 James Blake against Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo; three-time champion Serena Williams against American wild-card entry Alexa Glatch of Newport Beach, Calif.; and 2005 champion Kim Clijsters, just back from retirement, against Viktoriya Kutuzova.

Monday's matches are the first on a Grand Slam stage for anyone since July 5, when Federer's 5-7, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (5), 3-6, 16-14 victory over Roddick set records for most games and longest fifth set in major final history, topping marks set in 1927.

"It was amazing. Kind of did a lot for tennis," said Sam Querrey, who is seeded 22nd at the U.S. Open and generally considered the player most likely to succeed Roddick as the best from their country. "People were talking about that for a solid two, three weeks after."

And Roddick heard the chatter.

"The kind of the support I got from fans, from peers, from everybody—it was pretty surprising, in the best way possible, and pretty humbling," Roddick said. "I was really surprised when I had got back here as to how many people watched it and kind of were affected by it. To be honest, that really helped the process."

That "process" was the not-so-easy matter of digesting the punch-to-the-gut knowledge that Roddick came so close to winning Wimbledon for the first time.

This was, of course, against the Federer of six Wimbledon championships and a record 15 Grand Slam titles overall. The Federer who improved that day to 19-2 against Roddick, including 8-0 at major tournaments and 4-0 in Grand Slam finals.

"It's always tough in tennis that there are no draws.... At the end, unfortunately, there's always going to be one winner," Federer said this weekend. "I've walked off tennis courts as a loser many, many times. I wouldn't ask for the other guy or the fans to feel sorry for me."

Roddick never asked for that, either.

Still, it could not have been easy for him to pick himself up after such a setback. That loss left Roddick stuck on one Grand Slam championship - the title he won in New York in 2003. Back then, the thinking went, it would be the first of many.

NFL BRIEFS

Vikings, Favre prepare for Texans

HOUSTON (AP)—Brett Favre had just three days to prepare for his first start this preseason. This one should be a better indicator of how the comeback from his second retirement is going. Favre is expected to play the entire first half when the Minnesota Vikings face the Houston Texans in an exhibition game on Monday night. The 39-year-old quarterback completed just one pass for 4 yards over two series in his Minnesota debut Aug. 22, but was happy he didn't have any major errors after such little time to prepare.

'Vick doesn't disrupt offensive rhythm'

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Eagles offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg doesn't think the addition of Michael Vick will disrupt the rhythm of Philadelphia's offense. "Not at all," he said Sunday before practice. "We'll straighten that out. We'll take care of that. Michael is going to help this offense. I'm confident of that." Vick was involved in just six plays Thursday night in the team's preseason game against Jacksonville. Quarterback Donovan McNabb told Mornhinweg and coach Andy Reid that Vick coming in and out of the game disrupted the flow.

Cutler wins 27-17 in return to Denver

DENVER (AP)—Jay Cutler got the last laugh - and now he can put Denver in his rearview mirror for good. The Pro Bowl passer, who forced a blockbuster trade out of Denver last spring and became the Chicago Bears' first franchise quarterback since Sid Luckman, returned to Invesco Field on Sunday night and led his new team to a 27-17 preseason win over the Broncos. Cutler disregarded the thousands of hecklers, including Broncos pass-rusher Elvis Dumervil, in leading Chicago on three scoring drives, capped by a 12-play, 98-yarder just before halftime that gave the Bears a 17-3 lead.

Bruschi retiring after 13 seasons

BOSTON (AP)—Tedy Bruschi is retiring after a 13-year career marked by an inspiring return to the New England Patriots as a starting linebacker eight months after a stroke. A person familiar with his decision told The Associated Press on Sunday night that the 36-year-old Bruschi will announce his retirement at a news conference Monday morning. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because no announcement had been made. The team declined to comment Sunday night and called a news conference "for an important player announcement" Monday morning.

Bengals sign top pick RT Andre Smith

CINCINNATI (AP)—Offensive tackle Andre Smith signed a contract Sunday with the Cincinnati Bengals, ending an impasse that dragged on a month into the preseason. The Bengals originally planned to have Smith start at right tackle, but he has missed three preseason games. He was in Cincinnati and agreed to the deal shortly before the start of a late afternoon practice, allowing him to get back on the field. The Bengals finish their preseason schedule with a home game against Indianapolis on Thursday. It's unclear whether the rookie will be ready to play in that game.

Giants tie Rockies in wild-card race

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Edgar Renteria hit a grand slam in the seventh inning as the San Francisco Giants pulled even in the National League wild-card race with Colorado, beating the Rockies 9-5 Sunday for a three-game sweep.

The Giants moved into a second-place tie in the NL West with Colorado, six games behind Los Angeles. The Rockies lost their season-high fifth in a row.

Renteria homered with two outs to overcome a 5-2 deficit, connecting two pitches after Rafael Betancourt (0-1) relieved Franklin Morales. Renteria hit his eighth career grand slam and second in two years against Betancourt.

Renteria also doubled in a run and matched his career high with five RBIs.

Todd Helton and Troy Tulowitzki hit back-to-back solo homers in the fifth inning to put the Rockies ahead, but Colorado's bullpen couldn't hold a 4-1 lead.

Phillies 3, Braves 2

At Philadelphia, Carlos Ruiz hit a two-run, go-ahead double in the seventh inning and Joe Blanton pitched seven strong innings to lead Philadelphia to a victory over Atlanta.

Blanton (9-6) allowed one run on three hits in seven innings, making it 12 straight starts he has allowed three earned runs or less. Due to a lack of run support, though, the right-hander was just 4-3 in his previous 11 appearances. It looked like more of the same Sunday night until the seventh inning when Ruiz broke a 1-1 tie with a two-run double to left.

The ball glanced off the end of the glove of Braves left fielder Garret Anderson before caroming to the wall, scoring Raul Ibanez and Pedro Feliz. Ruiz finished 3-for-3 with two doubles for the NL-East leading Phillies (75-53).

Brewers 4, Pirates 1

At Milwaukee, shortstop Craig Counsell helped Milwaukee turn a season-high four double plays and drove in two runs as the Brewers beat Pittsburgh for the 21st straight time at home.

The Brewers' streak is the longest such string in the majors since the Indians beat the Baltimore franchise 27 times in a row at Cleveland Municipal Stadium from 1952-54.

Jeff Suppan (6-8) earned his first win since June 12 with six solid innings on his bobblehead day. He'd been 0-4 with a 6.70 ERA in his last nine starts and spent nearly a month on the disabled list with a strained oblique muscle.

Cardinals 2, Nationals 1

At St. Louis, Adam Wainwright earned his major league-leading 16th victory and Albert Pujols had the go-ahead hit in the sixth inning as St. Louis completed a three-game sweep of Washington.

Colby Rasmus had two hits and scored twice for the NL Central leaders, who have won five of six and are 29-4 since July 1 in starts by their top three — Wainwright (16-7), Chris Carpenter and Joel Pineiro.

Dodgers 3, Reds 2, 12 innings

At Cincinnati, Matt Kemp homered for Los Angeles' first run, then hit a sacrifice fly in the 12th inning to lift Los Angeles over Cincinnati.

The NL West leaders took two of three in the series, extending their lead over Colorado. No surprise at the outcome—the Dodgers are 22-4 against the Reds since 2006, their best mark against any NL team, according to STATS.

The Dodgers loaded the bases in the 12th against Francisco Cordero (2-4) and Kemp hit a fly ball to the warning track. Jonathan Broxton escaped a two-on threat in the Reds 12th for his 29th save in 34 chances.

After the game, the Dodgers announced they acquired infielder Ronnie Belliard from Washington for a minor league pitcher and a player to be named.

Mets 4, Cubs 1

At Chicago, Nelson Figueroa struck out a career-high 10 batters and had an RBI single to lead New York over Chicago.

Figueroa (2-3) allowed one run on six hits in seven-plus strong innings. Taking over injured Johan Santana's spot in the rotation, Figueroa won his first start since April 27, 2008.

Angel Pagan had three hits against his former team as New York won just for the second time in nine games. Brian Stokes pitched a perfect eighth and Francisco Rodriguez worked a scoreless ninth for his 28th save in 33 tries.

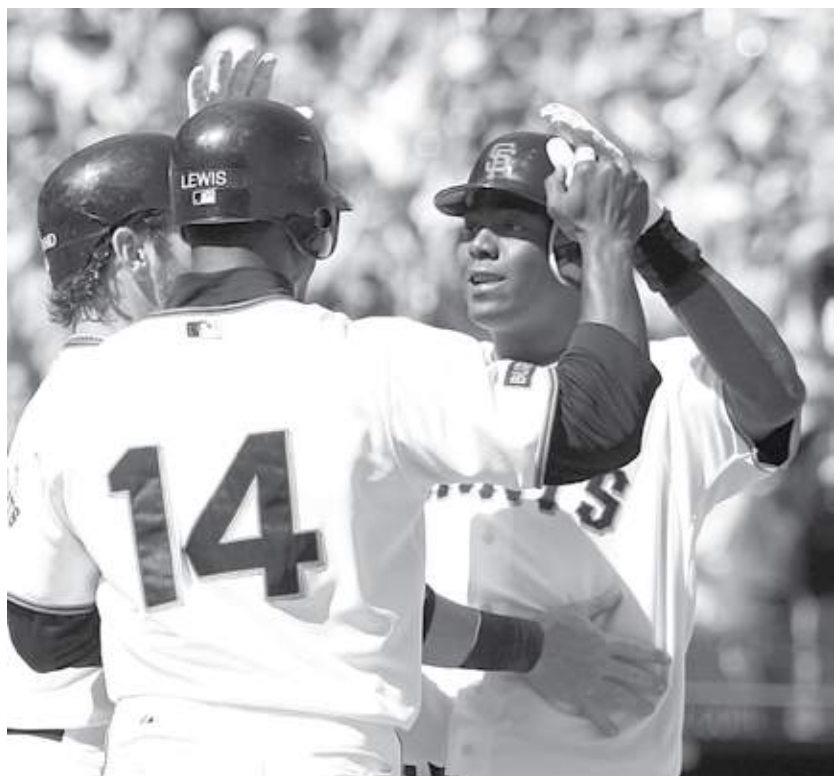
Diamondbacks 4, Astros 3

At Phoenix, reliever Chad Qualls dislocated his left kneecap when he was hit by Jason Michaels' line drive for the final out as Arizona defeated Houston to complete a three-game sweep.

With a runner on first, Qualls was struck. Shortstop Stephen Drew picked up the ball and threw Michaels out to end the game.

Qualls landed awkwardly and stayed on the ground for several moments. Favoring his left leg, he was helped off the field by trainers.

Dan Haren (13-8) threw seven sharp innings and Justin Upton hit his 22nd home run for Arizona.



AP

San Francisco Giants' Edgar Renteria, right, celebrates his grand slam off Colorado Rockies' Rafael Betancourt with teammates Fred Lewis (14) and Aaron Rowand during the seventh inning of a baseball game Sunday, Aug. 30, 2009, in San Francisco.

Marlins 6, Padres 4

At Miami, John Baker and Cody Ross each drove in two runs, leading Sean West and Florida over San Diego to end a three-game losing streak.

West (6-5) won for the fourth time in his last five outings at home. He gave up one earned run in six innings.

Chris Coghlan's leadoff single started a five-run burst in the fourth inning that made it 5-3. He has 46 hits in August, the most in any month by a National League rookie since Wally Moon had 52 for the St. Louis Cardinals in July 1954.

Red Sox 7, Jays 1

At Boston Paul Byrd, making his first major league start since last September, pitched six shutout innings as the Boston Red Sox completed a three-game sweep with a 7-0 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays in the American League on Sunday.

The win was the sixth in seven games for Boston, which pulled 3 1/2 games ahead of Texas in the AL wild-card race.

Byrd (1-0), out of baseball after finishing last year with the Red Sox, signed a minor league contract on Aug. 5. He gave up three hits and walked three.

Scoring single runs in each of the first four innings, the Red Sox sent Roy Halladay (13-8) to his third consecutive loss for the first time since last April.

The Blue Jays fell to 0-6 in Fenway Park this year.

Yankees 8, White Sox 3

At New York, Mark Teixeira homered and drove in four runs, and Johnny Damon also went deep as New York polished off a three-game sweep of the struggling Chicago.

Alfredo Aceves (9-1) provided stellar relief pitching after Joba Chamberlain's abbreviated outing, and the streaking Yankees won for the 20th time in 26 games.

Derek Jeter scored three times for the AL East leaders, who boosted baseball's best record to 82-48. They are 31-11 since the All-Star break, also the top mark in the majors.

Teixeira is making a push for AL MVP honors. The switch-hitting slugger, in his first season with the Yankees after signing a $180 million, eight-year contract, has 32 homers and 101 RBIs.

Orioles 5, Indians 2

At Baltimore, Brian Matusz pitched seven innings of four-hit ball and Felix Pie homered as Baltimore beat Cleveland for a split of the four-game series.

Making his sixth major league start, Matusz (3-2) allowed one run had a career-high eight strikeouts. The 22-year-old rookie held the Indians hitless over four innings and permitted only one hit through five.

Selected with the fourth overall pick in the 2008 amateur draft, Matusz has a collective 14-4 record in his first professional season. This marked the first time the left-hander pitched at least six innings, and his lone walk came when he was called for going to his mouth on a 3-1 pitch.

Tigers 4, Rays 3

At Detroit, Placido Polanco hit a three-run homer with two outs in the eighth inning to lift Detroit to a win over Tampa Bay.

Third baseman Brandon Inge sealed the victory, leaping to snag B.J. Upton's high hopper down the line with a runner on first and throwing across the diamond for the final out.

Justin Verlander (15-7) gave up three runs, six hits and four walks over eight innings and struck out four, matching a season low. Fernando Rodney pitched the ninth for his 29th save in 30 chances.

The AL Central-leading Tigers improved to 42-21 at home. The Rays, trying to stay in the wild-card race, fell to 28-38 on the road.

Twins 5, Rangers 3

At Minneapolis, pinch-runner Carlos Gomez scored the go-ahead run as Minnesota scored three times in the eighth inning to beat Texas.

Trailing 3-2 in the eighth, the Twins used a walk, three singles, Nelson Cruz's error, and a fielder's choice to rally against Texas reliever C.J. Wilson (4-6). Gomez, who was running for Jason Kubel, scored on Mike Redmon's fielder's choice. Texas first baseman Hank Blalock tried to get Gomez out at the plate on the grounder, but the throw was high.

Angels 9, Athletics 1

At Anaheim, California, John Lackey pitched eight innings of five-hit ball for his 100th victory, and Torii Hunter and Kendry Morales hit three-run homers as the Angels salvaged a split of their series with the last-place Oakland.

After losing his previous two starts, Lackey (9-7) became the fifth pitcher to win 100 games with the Angels. The right-hander limited Oakland to one unearned run while retiring 13 of his final 15 batters, improving to 16-4 in his career against the A's.

Brett Anderson (7-10) remained winless in his last four starts for Oakland, allowing seven hits over six innings. The 21-year-old gave up all four of his runs in the fifth inning, including Hunter's go-ahead shot to deep center.

Royals 3, Mariners 0

At Seattle, Zack Greinke pitched a one-hitter, allowing only a second-inning single by Kenji Johjima as Kansas City beat Seattle.

Greinke (13-8) retired the final 22 batters after Johjima's two-out single up the middle.

Greinke leads the majors with three shutouts and six complete games, and his 2.32 ERA is best in the AL. He walked one and struck five in the best low-hit game of his career—he pitched a three-hitter on April 24 against Detroit.

Michigan investigating alleged NCAA violations

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP)—The University of Michigan announced Sunday that it has launched an investigation into allegations that its football program regularly violates NCAA rules limiting how much time players can spend on training and practice.

The announcement from Michigan athletic director Bill Martin came after a Detroit Free Press article in which players from the 2008 and 2009 teams said the amount of time they spend on football during the season and in the offseason greatly exceeds NCAA limits. The players spoke to the newspaper on condition of anonymity because they feared repercussions from coaches.

"We are committed to following both the letter and the intent of the NCAA rules and we take any allegations of violations seriously," Martin said in a written statement.

"We believe we have been compliant with NCAA rules, but nonetheless we have launched a full investigation of the allegations in today's newspaper," he said.

Martin also said that the school had reached out to both the Big Ten and the NCAA about the allegations. He said the university would have more to say after its inquiry was done.

Coach Rich Rodriguez and the university's compliance director, Judy Van Horn, have denied that the football program violated NCAA rules.

Those regulations allow players to spend eight hours a week on mandatory workouts during the offseason. However, players told the Free Press that they have spent two to three times that amount on required workouts.

The players also said the amount of time they spent on football activities during the season exceeded the weekly limit of 20 hours and often exceeded the daily limit of four hours.

They also said quality-control staff often watched seven-on-seven offseason scrimmages that are supposed to be voluntary and that only training staff are allowed to attend.

Michigan was 3-9 last season—Rodriguez's first year as head coach of the Wolverines—and did not make it to the postseason, ending a 33-year streak.

Roach: Pacman will expose Cotto

Renowned trainer Freddie Roach believes Puerto Rican star Miguel Cotto will be exposed when he tangles with Filipino icon Manny Pacquiao on November 14 in Las Vegas.

"I'm expecting Cotto to be at his best," said Roach, who revealed that Pacquiao will only train three weeks in the U.S. and will have to spend five weeks somewhere else.

"But Pacquiao is at the top of his game right now. I'm expecting Cotto to be more resilient than Oscar and Hatton were, so he'll give us a better fight than those two guys did. The biggest thing with Cotto is that he's a strong guy, but Manny's not going to stand in front of him and trade. I feel that we'll be able to expose Cotto. His skills aren't quite where they used to be and we're going to expose him."

Pacquiao normally spends at least eight weeks of training at the Wild Card Gym in California, but a complicated Internal Revenue Service rule known as the "substantial presence test" mandates that non-resident aliens can only spend a certain number of days in the United States. If a person exceeds that number of days in a three-year period, they are considered a resident for tax purposes and their income is taxed accordingly.

"The IRS rule says that Manny can only be here in America for another three weeks or so," said his trainer Freddie Roach, in an interview with BoxingScene.com from the Wild Card Gym. "I thought Bob [Arum] might find a way around it. But they tell me they can't, so we're going to have to go someplace else."

Cotto, meanwhile, has warned Pacquiao to prepare for the worst when they meet in November.

"Pacquiao lost to Morales in their first fight, had a draw against Marquez and then a razor-thin victory in the rematch. Pacquiao faced a very tired and aged (Oscar) De La Hoya. Then Ricky Hatton, an overrated fighter," Cotto told Fightnews.

"Against me the story will be different. It will be a war," added Cotto, who is already in his fourth week of training in Puerto Rico under chief trainer Joe Santiago and South African conditioning coach Phil Landman, who has arrived from Los Angeles. (***Philippine Daily Inquirer***).

WAILERS

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Aii, which defeated Tagalogs in the first round. Wailers won, again to advance to the semifinals. In the semis, Wailers topped Choke Chain to gain the first finals seat.

Choke Chain dropped to the loser's bracket and had to wait for the winner of the Mixed Five-Three Tall Guys and a Short One tiff. Mixed Five, composed of Kelvin Fitial, Junar Guiab, Gyles Ruluked, Freddie Pelisamen, and Jhun Estolas prevailed to earn the right to face Choke Chain for the last championship berth.

Mixed Five foiled Choke Chain's finals bid, anew, but the former failed to continue its uphill climb, losing to Wailers.

The title match was a race to 16 points with no time limit and the winning team must prevail by two points. A regular game was a race to 16 points or the team to lead after 22 minutes wins the match.

The Wailers-Mixed Five title showdown was a close fight, with Cagadat and company needing extra points to pull off an 18-15 win. Cadagat scored Wailers last nine points in the title game.

In the 20-and-under division, the Dan Barcinas-led Marvelous defeated Count to 10 in the finals, 16-6.

Marvelous, which also had Jerome Norita, Jack Lizama, Jomary Tumaquip, and Marvin Rabauliman as members, debuted with a 16-13 win over Count to 10. The eventual champion recorded its second win against Yo Mama and moved into the finals after beating Air Ballers.

Air Ballers then played Count to 10 in the semifinals in the loser's bracket with the latter winning to arrange a rematch with Marvelous.

A brief altercation between Count to 10's Lerio Pagarao and Marvelous' Rabauliman put some color in the game that ended with Tumaquip canning a triple.

In the 15-and-under division, Kagman Ayuyus had only three players, but still survived three other teams to rule the youngest age group in the competition.

The Ayuyus, composed of Savili Talalemotu, Frank Mettao, and John Norita, first won over Bumble Bees and then advanced to the finals after thwarting Flipps.

In the loser's bracket, Bumble Bees downed Sexy 670 to face Flipps for the last finals seat. Flipps, which had Biff Baka, Darren Garrido, John Darag, Nino Feria, and Lawrence Deleon Guerrero as members, this time won in the loser's bracket semis to earn a rematch with the Ayuyus.

The Ayuyus led 4-1, before Flipps recovered and even took a 6-5 lead. Kagman moved within a point to wrap up the match, 15-11, but Flipps threatened another comeback, 15-13.

Kagman had two chances to end the game from the free throw line but Talalemotu and Mettao missed their charities. After teams traded misses, Mettao found Norita underneath and the latter pulled up for a fallaway banked shot to finally secure the title.

The Ayuyus received $100 for topping the 15-and-under division, while Marvelous and Wailers took home $200 and $300, respectively. Top placers also received gift certificates and other prizes from tournament sponsors.

Meanwhile, UBA thanked the following for supporting the tournament: ABC 7, Tan Sui Lin Foundation, Power 99 & the Kat, Digital Motion, The Set (Figo), Congressman Edward Salas, Docomo Pacific, Marpac, Subway, National Office Supply, Hollywood Theaters, Hard Rock Café. Pacific Islands Club, and Saipan Grand Hotel.

UBA president James Lee also acknowledged the assistance of volunteers and UBA officials and members.

6 PAIRS

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doubles games on Sunday were the tandems of Hapi Gabriel and Marlene Peraja, Rodwealth Espana and Elna Curate, Puy Macario and Annett Quimbao, and Macoi Aguda and Merlie Tolentino.

Gabriel and Peraja dueled Edwin Montoya and Cristy Villaflor in the A division and prevailed in straight sets, 21-16, 21-112.

The duo of Espana and Curate needed an extra set to thwart Joey Algenio and Riza Y. in the mixed C division Espana and Curate dropped the first set, 13-21, before sweeping the last two to steal the win, 21-12, 21-11.

In another mixed C game, Puy Macario and Quiambao outclassed Malou Mendoza and Rob Harrell, 22-20, 21-18.

In the mixed A division, Aguda and Tolentino played an extended game against the pair of Shirley Kim and Lito Mendoza before pulling off a 21-19, 17-21, 21-14 win.

In the singles division, Gabriel recovered from his back-to-back losses on Saturday in the A division via a three-set victory over Daniel Macario, 21-18, 20-22, 21-12.

In the B division , Noli Santos, Roger Vales, and Keno San Pablo won their respective matches.

Santos defeated Aries Cordero, 21-11, 21-13, while San Pablo also prevailed in straight sets against Paul Navarro, 21-19, 21-18. The Vales-Savellano tiff went the distance with the former winning, 21-16, 18-21, 21-12.

In the C singles division, Chris Hilario topped Algenio in straight sets, 21-19, 21-18, while Ezekiel Macario outplayed Raphael Zapanta in a battle of youth players, 21-6, 21-9.

This year's IT&E badminton tournament has a single round robin format in both the singles and mixed doubles competition with the Top 4 players/pairs in each division advancing to the next round.

TINIAN

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Hotshot Edgar Pangelinan leg CHC's offense for the fourth straight time, hitting 32 points. His nine points in the first period gave CHC a 20-8 lead and the team never looked back, leading by as much as 20, 43-23.

Big man Joe Tudela fouled not, but contributed 23 points before leaving the game in the fourth period. Tom Diaz chipped in 12.

On Saturday, Hyatt Regency Saipan cruised to its second win in as any games after slipping past Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, 78-74.

Bernard Aquino paced Hyatt with 22 points, while Chris Arreza and Edmark Mendoza scored 17 points apiece.

DCCA led after the first period, 17-20, but Hyatt took over beginning in the second quarter with the trio of Aquino, Arreza, and Mendoza leading the team's rally.

DCCA absorbed its second straight loss after winning its debut in the 12-team league against Customs, two weeks ago.

Friday's Games

First Game

CHC 86—Pangelinan 32, Tudela 23, Diaz 12, Lisua 8, Brostrom 6, Seidler 5

BoG 82— Iguel 28, Joyner 26, D .Palacios 11, Pelisamen 11, Peter 6

Scoring by quarters: 20-8, 43-23, 62-52, 86-82.

Second Game

Tinian 90—R. Reyes 22, Santos 15, Borja 11, Cruz 9, Manglona 9, Evangelista 6, Kaipat 4.

CPA-Accounting 73—Apelo 25, Camacho 21, Kapileo 8, Schuler 8, Yangilmau, Maratita 2.

Scoring by quarters : 28-18, 46-34, 67-51, 90-73.

Saturday Game

Hyatt 78 – Aquino 22, Arreza 17, Mendoza 17, Libuw 10, Yamamoto 5, Umali 5, Vargas 2.

DCCA 74 – Rasa 23, P. Camacho 15, Rangamar 13, C.Camacho 8, Benavente 6, Flores 2, Igitol 2, Sablan 1.

Scoring by quarters: 17-20, 43-40, 62-50, 78-74.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

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	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	82	48	.631	_
Boston	76	54	.585	6
Tampa Bay	70	59	.543	11 1/2
Toronto	58	70	.453	23
Baltimore	54	77	.412	28 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	69	60	.535	_
Minnesota	65	65	.500	4 1/2
Chicago	64	67	.492	6
Cleveland	58	72	.446	11 1/2
Kansas City	50	80	.385	19 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	77	52	.597	_
Texas	72	57	.558	5
Seattle	68	63	.519	10
Oakland	57	73	.438	20 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	75	53	.586	_
Florida	68	62	.523	8
Atlanta	68	62	.523	8
New York	59	72	.450	17 1/2
Washington	46	85	.351	30 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	77	55	.583	_
Chicago	65	63	.508	10
Milwaukee	64	66	.492	12
Houston	62	68	.477	14
Pittsburgh	56	73	.434	19 1/2
Cincinnati	53	75	.414	22

West Division

Los Angeles	78	53	.595	_
Colorado	72	59	.550	6
San Francisco	72	59	.50	5
Arizona	58	72	.450	19
San Diego	56	76	.424	22 1/2

Yesterday's Games

San Francisco 9, Colorado 5
Philadelphia 3, Atlanta 2
Milwaukee 4, Pitteburgh 1
St. Louis 2, Washington 1
LA Dodgers 3, Cincinnati 2
NY Mets 4, Chi Cuvs 2
Arizona 4, Houston 3
Florida 6, San Diego 4
Boston 7, Toronto 1
NY Yankees 8, Chi White Sox 3
Baltimore 5, Cleveland 2
Detroit 4, Tampa Bay 3
Minnesota 5, Texas 3
LA Angels 8, Oakland 1
Kansas City 3, Seattle 0

THE BARCLAYS SCORES

JERSEY CITY, New Jersey (AP)– Scores Sunday from The Barclays, a $7.5 million US PGA Tour playoffs event at 7,419-yard, par-71 Liberty National Golf Club Course.

Final Round

Heath Slocum	66-72-70-67	275
Ernie Els	72-68-70-66	276
Padraig Harrington	67-75-67-67	276
Tiger Woods	70-72-67-67	276
Steve Stricker	69-70-68-69	276
Nick Watney	68-73-69-67	277
Fredrik Jacobson	66-72-68-71	277
Webb Simpson	66-68-72-72	278
Scott Verplank	73-70-68-68	279
Ian Poulter	67-72-70-70	279
Paul Goydos	65-71-68-75	279
Brandt Snedeker	72-75-67-66	280
Brian Gay	70-72-71-67	280
Jason Day	70-73-70-67	280
Dustin Johnson	70-74-73-64	281
Robert Allenby	68-75-69-69	281
Jim Furyk	69-73-70-69	281
Greg Owen	71-74-65-71	281
Steve Marino	65-71-68-71	281
Lee Janzen	68-75-70-69	282
Hunter Mahan	72-72-68-70	282
Troy Matteson	71-71-69-71	282
Y.E. Yang	71-72-68-71	282
Kevin Na	73-72-71-67	283
Jonathan Byrd	72-74-67-70	283
Tim Clark	71-70-71-71	283
Bill Haas	72-70-69-72	283
Stewart Cink	70-72-71-71	284
Matt Kuchar	68-73-68-75	284
Zach Johnson	70-72-67-75	284
J.B. Holmes	73-73-69-70	285
Sergio Garcia	65-76-74-70	285
D.A. Points	70-71-74-70	285
Justin Leonard	68-75-72-70	285
Luke Donald	73-69-73-70	285
Mike Weir	71-71-72-71	285
David Toms	67-75-71-72	285
Richard S. Johnson	68-71-73-73	285
Charley Hoffman	66-74-71-74	285
Bo Van Pelt	70-74-66-75	285
Boo Weekley	75-70-74-67	286
Ben Crane	74-73-69-70	286
Fred Couples	71-76-69-70	286
Justin Rose	73-72-69-72	286
Rod Pampling	68-73-69-76	286
Tim Petrovic	69-76-74-68	287
Chad Campbell	72-75-70-70	287
Bob Estes	73-74-70-70	287
Chris Riley	72-75-70-70	287
Davis Love III	70-75-72-70	287
John Mallinger	74-72-70-71	287
Kevin Sutherland	69-76-75-68	288
Jerry Kelly	72-74-76-66	288
Phil Mickelson	70-75-74-69	288
Anthony Kim	75-71-71-71	288
Kenny Perry	71-75-71-71	288
Harrison Frazar	73-71-72-72	288
Mark Wilson	72-75-72-70	289
James Nitties	71-75-73-70	289
Adam Scott	75-72-72-70	289
Daniel Chopra	77-69-71-72	289
Cameron Beckman	70-72-74-73	289
Kevin Streelman	68-78-69-74	289
Vaughn Taylor	71-76-69-74	290
John Senden	72-73-71-74	290
Bill Lunde	70-73-71-76	290
Brett Quigley	70-77-72-72	291
Charlie Wi	73-73-73-72	291
J.J. Henry	72-73-74-72	291
Ryan Moore	68-78-77-69	292
Charles Howell III	76-70-72-74	292
Retief Goosen	70-74-74-74	292
Jeff Overton	72-71-77-73	293
Alex Cejka	71-72-77-73	293
John Rollins	71-73-73-76	293
Joe Ogilvie	73-72-78-76	299
Todd Hamilton	71-74-79-76	300

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

IT&E INTER-GOV'T/BIZ LEAGUE STANDINGS

IT&E	4	0
MBI	3	1
PSS	3	2
CHC	3	1
Docomo	2	1
Tinian	2	1
BOG	2	4
Hyatt	1	0
DCCA	1	2
Customs	0	2
CPA	0	4
ARFF	0	4

CNMI

From Page 28

Korea. Yu Hui Lin of Chinese-Taipei was the tournament's top scorer with four goals.

In the men's division, Hong Kong stunned the favored and World Cup-bound DPR Korea, winning the event via the point system.

Hong Kong and DPR Korea finished the round robin tournament with identical 2-1-0 win-draw-loss record. However, Hong Kong scored the most goals in three games, thus earned plus 16 points against DPR Korea's plus 8.

Hong Kong won over Chinese-Taipei 4-0, and against Guam, 12-0. DPR Korea topped Chinese-Taipei, 2-1, and Guam, 9-2.

DPR Korea is headed to next year's World Cup for the first time in 44 years and was also hoping for a stint in the EAFF Men's Championship Round against Japan, China, and Korea Republic. However, Hong Kong entered the picture and is now bound for Tokyo next year for the EAFF finale.

Defender Gerard Guy of Hong Kong took the MVP trophy in the men's while teammate Siu Ki Chan emerged as the tournament's top scorer with five goals. Korea's Kwang Chon Ri claimed the Best Defender Award, while Hong Kong's Kwon Chuen Ho was named Best Goalkeeper. DPR Korea won the Fairplay Award.

7th UFO Inter-Organizational Basketball League

Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The statistical leaders pose with their trophies, from left, Brendon Talania (representing best in free throws awardee Leo Factor, Sonny Lerio (triples), Jessie Mina (scoring), Wowie Abuel (assists), Ronald Delos Reyes (rebounds), Elmer Esdrelon (steals), and Ron Gamboa (representing shotblocks leader Jawn Joyner).

Bayani players and supporters pose with their third place trophy in the open division.

Cabalen's Roland Tengco, third left, and Jessie Mina, fourth left, are awarded with the masters runner-up trophy by IT&E marketing manager Kathryn Barry, fourth right. Joining them in a group photo are UFO officials.

Open division champion MDX-Chow Queen pose with their trophies and supporters.

NMBA-Ebisuya's Francis Rebuyon, right, receives his MVP trophy from 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League commissioner Paul Madriaga during the awards ceremony on Saturday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

VisMinda officials are joined by Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig, fourth left, during the presentation of certificates to the participating teams.

Named to the Mythical Five Team are Wowie Abuel, Elmer Esdrelon, Jawn Joyner (represented by Ron Gamboa), Gil Gapor (represented by Francis Rebuyon), and Ronald Delos Reyes.

Representatives from Boholanos-University of Loyola/Raffy's Diner receive their third place trophy from UFO officials.

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Masters champion NMBA-Ebisuya players receive a certification of participation from Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig, third left.

MIFICPA's Orly Ebuen, center receives the masters Sportsmanship Award from UFO's Paul Madriaga, right, and Melvin Malvar.

Slocum pulls off surprise victory at Barclays

Heath Slocum might have been the one player no one expected to win The Barclays.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Giants tie Rockies in wild-card race

Edgar Renteria hit a grand slam in the seventh inning as the San Francisco Giants pulled even in the National League wild-card race with Colorado, beating the Rockies 9-5 Sunday.

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CNMI completes EAFF stint, Hong Kong, DPR Korea advance

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Women's National Football Team completed their debut in the East Asian Football Federation Women's Football Championship 2010 Semifinals Competition on Thursday at the Tainan County Stadium, in Tainan County, Taiwan.

The Commonwealth's female strikers, who returned to Saipan on Sunday after the weeklong tournament, played host Chinese-Taipei in their last game and lost, 0-17.

The Sugao Kambe-coached squad dropped all its four games and scored only once when forward Carrie Knight found the back of the net in their first game against Guam.

South Korea won the semifinals after beating Chinese-Taipei on Sunday, 6-0. The FIFA world-ranked No. 21 DPR Korea earned a ticket to the championship round which will be played in Tokyo, Japan next year. They will play against Japan, China, and Republic of Korea.

DPR Korea's So Hyun Cho was adjudged MVP of the tournament, while teammates Do Yeon Kim and Jung Mi were named Best Defender and Goalkeeper, respectively. The Fair-play Award also went to DPR

See CNMI on Page 26

The CNMI's Maryana Gramlich, right, and Chinese-Taipei's Tseng Shu-O chase the ball during their game in the East Asian Football Federation Women's Football Championship 2010 Semifinals Competition on Thursday at the Tainan County Stadium, in Tainan County, Taiwan.
WWW.EAFF.COM

Wailers top list of 3-on-3 winners

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Wailers led the list of winners in the 3-on-3 King of Da Court Basketball Tournament played on Saturday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Wailers outclassed six other teams to rule the 21-and-above division of the Unified Basketball Association, Inc-organized tournament. The 3-on-3 event was supposed to conclude on Aug. 22 during the Car Show, but was postponed due to heavy rains.

On Saturday, Mother Nature cooperated with the tournament, allowing Kagman Ayuyus and Marvelous to join Wailers in the winners' circle.

Wailers were composed of Bonbon Cadagat, Quincy Johnson, Allen Moses, Chris Paul, and Jung Won and won over the Bangers in the first round of the double-elimination tournament.

Next up for Wailers was Na

See WAILERS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Wailers' Chris Paul, right, shows his dribbling skills against Choke Chain's Mel Manibusan during their semis game in the winner's bracket of the 21-and-above division of the UBA 3-on-3 King of Da Court Basketball Tournament played on Saturday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Tinian, CHC recover, Hyatt wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tinian and Commonwealth Health Center returned to their winning ways quickly, while Hyatt kept its clean slate, following their separates victories in the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League over the weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Tinian whipped CPA-Accounting in the second game on Friday, 90-73, to recover from a previous loss to Public School System-McGraw Hill. Tinian improved to a 2-1 record to share the No. 4 spot in the team standings with NTT Docomo.

Slotman Ringo Reyes led Tinian's win, firing 22 points, while Juan Santos chipped in 15 points, and Ton Borja added in 11.

CPA cut the more than 20-point lead to 11 in the last three minutes of the game, but triples from Borja helped halt the rally and preserve the win.

Leo Apelo tallied 25 points for CPA-Accounting, which has yet to win in four games. Chris Camacho added 21 on a losing cause.

In the first game, CHC rebounded from its loss to the league-leading IT&E via an 86-82 win over Bank of Guam.

The victory snapped Bank of Guam's two-game winning streak. BoG dropped to a 2-4 record, while CHC improved to a 3-1 slate to grab a share of the second spot with Micronesian Brokers, Inc.

See TINIAN on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tinian's Ringo Reyes goes for a left-handed layup against CPA-Accounting's Chris Camacho during their game in the IT&E caging on Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

6 pairs triumph in IT&E badminton tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Action in the IT&E Singles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament 2009 continued on Sunday at the REM Court in Gualo Rai with six pairs winning their mixed doubles matches.

Ferdie Arago and Janis Parcon remained undefeated after notching two more wins in the mixed doubles B division on Sunday. Arago and Parcon first downed Andrew Galvez and Angie Ito, 21-15, 21-13, and then made it two in a row in the same day after a 21-13, 21-11 triumph over Jojo Savellano and Camille Samonte.

Others who won in the mixed

See 6 PAIRS on Page 26

Elna Curate, right, stretches to return the ball, while teammate Rodwealth Espana looks on during their game in the mixed C division in the IT&E Singles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament 2009 on Sunday at the REM Court in Gualo Rai.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO